

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should foreign workers be made to pay for their own medical insurance?

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Promotion

A total of 93 students are promoted by the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

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Leadership

Over 40 United Filipino Organization representatives take part in leadership seminar.

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Estonian Bust

Sean Connery can count a bronze sculpture in the Estonian capital among his tributes.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

AT CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN

Kilili: \$10M loan for new junior high school, rebuild Hopwood

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, left, is ceremonially sworn-in by visiting U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Joaquin V. E. Manibusan Jr., right, while the delegate's mother holds the Bible and his wife Andrea looks on at the outside stage of Hopwood Junior High School yesterday morning. Also in photo is Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated. Inset shows Fitial, Sablan and Manibusan singing the U.S. national anthem.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



“ If we can borrow \$17 million for a few criminals, we should be willing to borrow \$10 million to give the 1,200 of you at Hopwood the good schools you deserve. ”

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan took his oath of office for a second term at yesterday's crowded ceremonial swearing-in, highlighted by his recommendation for the CNMI government to agree to borrow \$10 million to build a third junior high school on Saipan and rebuild Hopwood Junior High School, whose structures were mostly built in the '50s.

Sablan said if the local government was able to borrow \$17 million to build a new prison a few years ago "to house 100 bad guys," then it should be willing to borrow \$10 million to give students new and better facilities—a point that

drew applause from the big crowd of dignitaries, students, parents and other community members.

In a 16-minute speech that started at 9:51am, Sablan also received rous-

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\$6.2M tourism incentive bill heads to the governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House and Senate passed during back-to-back sessions yesterday afternoon a bill providing up to \$6.2 million in incentives for travel agents who will bring in Japanese tourists from Osaka and Nagoya during months when

CNMI arrivals are at their lowest.

House Bill 17-141, House Substitute 1, House Draft 1 now heads to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

The Japan Air Service Stabilization Program bill is one of three priority bills that Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and the Legislature agreed to immedi-

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Tinian mayor's ex-counsel threatens defamation lawsuit. PAGE 3

Local

CPA approves \$5.9M more for runway rehabilitation

» **Project's total cost now over \$19M**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors unanimously approved yesterday

an additional funding of \$5.9 million for the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport main runway rehabilitation project.

The additional infusion raises the overall project cost to over \$19 million.

During yesterday's special

board meeting, CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said the board's approval is supported by the Federal Aviation Administration, which is funding the project.

The \$5.9 million supplemental funding will be used to pay for the "standby claims" of the

contractor of the project to cover for the time it waits to begin construction.

Guam Pacific Power Corp. Inc. was issued a notice to proceed with the rehabilitation project last year but due to some delay in the processing of requirements, construction work did not start on schedule, resulting in the accumulation of "standby costs" on the part of GPPC Inc.

Deleon Guerrero described the delay as "legitimate" because it involved rigorous requirements such as a series of meetings with airlines and the conduct of flight procedure requirements and safety standards.

"Those things have to be in place before we can even start the actual construction. This was a legitimate delay because it was the process that takes longer for the project," explained Deleon Guerrero.

Based on the construction schedule and project costs, the main runway rehabilitation will cost over \$13 million—all to be funded by the FAA under the airport improvement project program. With the approved \$5.9 million funds for "standby claims," total project cost is now over \$19 million.

CPA officials anticipate no additional change orders or supplemental funding until the

project is completed in October this year.

Deleon Guerrero said construction work at the runway is now in full swing. The project has three phases and construction schedule was increased to expedite its completion. The rehabilitation will include milling of existing runway, taxiway, blast pad and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay and other works.

During the construction period, the main runway would still accommodate large aircraft as construction will be closed during regular flight schedules. A newly built taxiway will accommodate smaller aircraft.

Ex-convict gets 5-month sentence for indecent exposure

The Superior Court has sentenced an ex-convict who fondled himself in front of a female neighbor to five months in prison.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Jake Atalig Palacios to six months in prison, all suspended except for five months, with credit for the 18 days he had already served in jail.

The 24-year-old Palacios will start serving his sentence on March 4, 2011.

After finishing his sentence, he will be placed on supervised

probation for three years.

Palacios was also required to write a one-page letter explaining how the conduct for which he was convicted affected his family and to write a letter of apology to the victim.

Palacios must also submit to a mental examination by a physician, therapist, or counselor.

Naraja said Palacios may reside in his home, but must not make any overt gesture to anyone in the victim's family.

He was also directed to pay a \$500 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, and \$300 pro-

bation fee.

Palacios pleaded guilty to indecent exposure in the second degree and disturbing the peace as part of a plea bargain.

In return, the Office of the Attorney General agreed to withdraw its petition to revoke Palacios' probation in a prior case. It also agreed to withdraw another criminal case filed against Palacios.

In May 2008, Palacios was arrested for stealing and selling some items owned by a police officer and his family. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Wiseman tops other judges anew in published opinions

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman once again topped the other four judges in the CNMI Superior Court in the number of published decisions issued in 2009.

According to the CNMI Judiciary's Annual Report released early this week, Wiseman issued 13 published opinions—all civil cases.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja and Associate Judge

Perry B. Inos came second with nine published opinions each.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued seven published opinions, while associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo only had one.

In 2008 and 2007, Wiseman also topped five judges, publishing 34 and nine opinions respectively. In those two years, Naraja did not publish a single decision.

Section 3404 Title I of the Commonwealth Code states that "decisions of the Supreme

Court and of the Superior Court which determine a case and decisions which determine a substantial question of procedure or substantive law shall be set forth in written opinions, with the reasons for the decision stated, within one year of submission of the case for decision, and shall be published in consultation with the Law Revision Commission."

It is the judge who determines whether or not his or her opinion should be published.

Once a judge decides that his or her opinion is for publication, the Law Revision Commission puts it out as a published decision.



Wiseman



HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the Northern Mariana Islands returns on Feb. 19-20, 2011, featuring live entertainment, games, food, and "donni sali," the island's internationally famous hot pepper. The event is sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Tinian Mayor's Office.

Two die in New Caledonia leptospirosis outbreak

SUVA, Fiji (Oceania Flash/PIR)—Two people have died in New Caledonia over the past few days as a result of a post-cyclone outbreak of leptospirosis, a disease transmitted by animal urine.

The two victims are a seventeen-year-old male and a fifty-seven-year-old woman, who could not be saved after they belatedly sought medical attention, local media reported on Wednesday.

Five other persons with similar symptoms were also still in intensive at the Nouméa Gaston Bourret general hospital.

A total of fifteen new cases has been reported since the beginning of January 2011.

This has prompted New Caledonia's department of public health to activate a medical vigilance plan, usually applied in times of epidemics.

The plan also involves a particular focus on public education and awareness.

Key parts of the plan involve urging the general public to be particularly vigilant for early symptoms of the water-borne disease (strong fever, muscular, joint, stomach pains, vomiting, diarrhoea and skin rashes) which is typically transmitted, through water, by contaminated animal waste.

The most vector-prone animals were rats, pigs, horses and dogs.

In any doubt, people should seek medical advice, authorities said, adding that too often, the symptoms can be easily mistaken with those for other illnesses such as dengue fever, malaria or typhoid.

Public health and hygiene services said awareness about the disease should be raised,

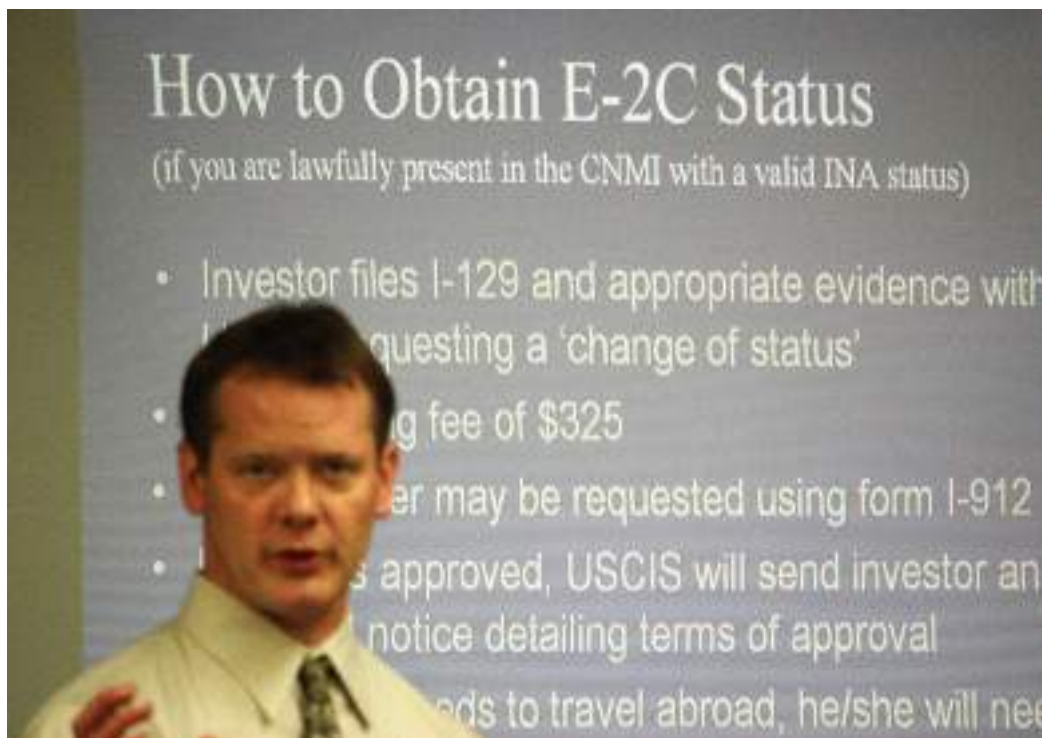
especially on the basic hygiene rules such as proper waste control and disposal, avoiding walking barefoot in potentially contaminated waters and even boiling water before consumption.

Medical professionals also stressed that if detected early enough, leptospirosis can be easily treated.

If left to develop, it can be fatal.

New Caledonia, just like most of the South-western Pacific islands, has experienced particularly hot and humid weather in the past few weeks, a regular feature in this southern hemisphere hot tropical season.

The French Pacific territory was hit this month by tropical cyclone Vania, which lashed its North-eastern Loyalty Islands group and later the main island, in its southern part.



OUTREACH

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Washington, D.C.-based Kevin J. Cummings, chief of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Business and Foreign Workers Division, makes a presentation on the CNMI-only E-2 investor rule, before members of the CNMI on Capital Hill Tuesday.

Tinian mayor's ex-counsel threatens defamation lawsuit

» Dela Cruz says he's ready for court battle

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ramon K. Quichocho, the former legal counsel of the Tinian

mayor, described as "false and defamatory" the statements made by his former boss and threatened to file a lawsuit to counter comments that he char-

acterized as "malicious and irresponsible."

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz confirmed receiving Quichocho's letter yesterday and said he is now consulting with his lawyers. "These guys

[Felipe Atalig and Quichocho] have been harassing me...maybe we should try it in court instead of the newspaper. They've been doing it all along...and I got a lot of witnesses."

Dela Cruz had slammed Quichocho in a letter to Atalig last Thursday, saying his former legal counsel has a conflict of interest in his Open Government Act request.

The mayor accused his former legal counsel of waging a personal vendetta against him, citing the lawyer's alleged participation in efforts to harass him. "If we go to court, we will prove it," Dela Cruz said.

Quichocho, in a letter to the mayor yesterday, said that Dela Cruz "intentionally, maliciously, irresponsibly, and wickedly defamed" him in the letter published by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

bune yesterday.

He denied participating in any smear campaign against the mayor and challenged Dela Cruz to present evidence of it.

"I challenge you to find any newspaper article or television interview in which I waged a smear campaign against you. You will find none! Your statement is false and defamatory!" states Quichocho in his letter.

He said he doesn't see how his effort to exercise a statutory right such as an Open Government Meetings and Records Acts request is a conflict and harassment. He categorically denied harassing the mayor or his staff.

"If your definition of 'harassment' means writing you a letter to request inspection of public records and then following up unanswered re-

quests, then we have no further comments other than to reiterate that we, in no way, have any malicious or frivolous intentions requesting the public documents. Unless you are hiding some wrongful acts, you should not misconstrue our lawful requests as harassing," said Quichocho.

The lawyer also claimed that neither he nor Atalig did anything to injure and harm the mayor. He said the filing of the OGA request is merely an exercise of a right as a taxpayer.

Quichocho added: "I never held any personal vendetta against you because it is not worth my time and energy."

Quichocho said he also intends to sue the *Saipan Tribune* for printing an article on the letter, which he labeled as "defamatory."

High surf advisory in effect until Sunday

The National Weather Service in Guam has issued a Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas through Monday and High Surf Advisory for north facing reefs through Sunday. Beginning Friday through Saturday, surf is predicted to be at its highest with swells expected to rise to 12 or 13 feet. Sunday into Monday, swells will remain high continuing to rise around 8 to 10 feet.

A Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas means that waves along affected reefs will be higher than normal, making it exceptionally dangerous for small vessels and swimmers. The National Weather Service recommends that mariners operating small vessels should avoid

navigating in these conditions.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam urges inexperienced and experienced beach-goers alike to use caution while in the water and stay away from the reef lines. In areas with high surf, swimmers may have difficulty returning to shore because of the increased speed of rip currents. The strength and speed of a rip current will likely increase as wave height and wave period increases. Rip currents are especially dangerous as they have the potential to pull a swimmer out several hundred yards from shore and beyond the reef line. Rip currents can be found anywhere there is a break in the reef line.

For the boating public, if you

must go out, ensure that you are wearing an appropriate personal flotation device and have a means of signaling for help should you be in distress including operational long range radio communications. Another smart and safe step to take is filing a float plan that can be as easy as telling someone who is not a part of your activity on the water where you are leaving from, where you intend to go and when you will return. This information is invaluable to the Coast Guard in planning a Search and Rescue operation should you not return on time.

To report any maritime emergency, call the Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG. (**USCG**)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

San Roque Church to hold 2011 Walkathon today

San Roque Parish Church is launching today, Jan. 29, 2011, its first fundraising activity this year dubbed the "2011 Walkathon - Un Parokia, Un Familia." Assembly place is at the parking lot of the Kan Pacific at 6am. Participants will walk all the way to Banzai Cliff. There will be a simple fellowship at the Banzai Cliff pavilion right after the walkathon. Light breakfast will be served.

The objectives of this walkathon are to promote health and wellness, foster camaraderie among parishioners, and to raise funds for the upgrade of church's sound system and for the concrete pavement of the church sidewalks.

Pledge forms are available at the Parish Office. Everyone is invited to join and support this parish activity. (**PR**)

Rummage Sale at Sr. Remedios today

The Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center will be hosting a Multi-Family Rummage Sale today, Jan. 29, from 8am to 12pm, at the Sister Remedios School. Don't miss out! Lots of items to choose from and lots of big bargains. (**PR**)

Anti-smoking bill on Marianas Agupa today

Marianas Agupa will feature Sen. Luis Crisostimo, author of the anti-smoking amendment today, Jan. 29, 2011. The show starts at 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the anti-smoking bill that will amend Public Law 16-46, the anti-smoking law, and other proposed measures

that will stimulate the CNMI economy.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will also feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former Tinian senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (**PR**)

SSHS report cards out soon

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students, Term 2 Report Cards are scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011, from 3-6pm, at the counseling office. All students will be released at 1pm. (**PR**)

Cancer survivorship survey

The Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network is asking all self-identified Asian-American and Pacific Islander cancer survivors to participate in a confidential survey that will be used to assess the psychosocial needs of Asian-American and Pacific Islander cancer survivors across the nation. The information gathered will be used for research on cancer survivorship among Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities, and will help tailor and/or advocate for culturally relevant and appropriate programs and services. The survey takes approximately 20-30 minutes to fill out, and participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the principal investigator, Dr. Giang Nguyen, at 215-615-0355, or

Dr. Mai-Nhung Le at mainhung@sfsu.edu.

The survey can be found at www.aapihealth.org/study. If you are a self-identified Asian-American and/or Pacific Islander cancer survivor, take the time to fill out this important survey. (**PR**)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

The next support meeting for cancer survivors and caregivers is on Feb. 23, 2011, starting at 5:30pm. Location and presentation topic to be announced later. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or cca@ccamarianas.org. (**PR**)

Join PIC Duck Race for Cancer

On Feb. 19, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan will once again host the popular *2011 Duck Race for Cancer*, starting at 6pm. The Sports, Entertainment, & Activities staff will be selling ducks to the community to raise funds for the fight against cancer. Previous *Duck Races for Cancer* raised a combined total of \$10,000. Ducks cost \$5 apiece, and the grand prize is \$1,000 in cash, followed by \$300 and \$200 for the 2nd and 3rd place winners, respectively.

This year, PIC is adding a Corporate Category, and is inviting businesses to participate in the *PIC Race Around the River*. The first 16 companies to confirm will be granted slots in the corporate race.

For more information, contact Dennis Tababa, sports manager/race director at 235-6231, Ext. 5173, or email sportsmanager@picsaipan.com. (**PR**)



PUBLIC HEARING

Board of Regents member Frank Rabauliman, left, confers with Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine Cabrera during a joint public hearing on two NMC-related bills and the college budget, held by the Senate Education Committee and Fiscal Affairs Committee on Tuesday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Trial of man in wire fraud case delayed anew

The jury trial of a man indicted for his role in an alleged conspiracy to defraud a Philippine bank of about \$109,855 was delayed anew to give time for the defendant's new lawyer to acquaint himself with the case.

Haydn L. Villegas and his new court-appointed counsel, G. Anthony Long, reached an agreement yesterday with assistant U.S. attorney Beverly R. McCallum to ask the U.S. District Court for the NMI to vacate the scheduled Feb. 28 jury trial.

Villegas' first court-appointed counsel, Joey P. San Nicolas, withdrew from the case after accepting a job in Guam. The court granted the request and on

Monday named Long as Villegas' new counsel.

Long and McCallum agreed that given the nature of this case and the voluminous documentation associated with the charge, Long cannot become familiar with the case and prepare pre-trial motions within the current schedule. Both parties asked the court to vacate the pre-trial motions' due date of Feb. 28, 2011. They asked the court to set a status conference on Feb. 11, 2011, where a new scheduling order will be discussed and established.

Villegas recently pleaded not guilty to the indictment that charged him with conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

According to the indictment, the scheme to defraud began in November 2004 when Haydn Villegas and Ana Maria V. Villegas, then co-owners of Philippine Express Remittance, started passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express.

PNB Express was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank. At that time, Armilaine Salamat was the manager of PNB Express.

Although a number of Hadyn and Ana Villegas' checks were returned as unpaid, Salamat allegedly continued accepting checks drawn on the couple's four Saipan bank accounts. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

KILILI

From Page 1

ing applause from students when he announced that seventh graders who haven't received their laptops yet will be able to have these in their hands on Feb. 22.

"And hopefully, before you graduate from high school, we'll be able to put Kindle in your hands so you don't need to carry a lot of books," he said, referring to Amazon's Kindle, a portable electronic book reader.

Sablan was ceremonially sworn in for his second term as the CNMI's nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives at the outdoor stage of Hopwood Junior High School yesterday morning.

He was sworn in by visiting U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Joaquin V. E. Manibusan Jr.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who was seated beside Sablan on stage, later said in an interview that he supports building a new junior high school and rebuilding Hopwood Junior High School.

The governor reiterated that he and Sablan have agreed to "work together."

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said that building a new junior high school may cost about \$6 million.

"A new campus is not just classrooms. We're talking about multimedia library, we're talking about cafeteria, resource rooms, counselors' room, principal's room, administrative offices," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said she's happy to learn of the support for the project.

"Our vision is to advance public education here, and it's not just about making new campuses available but building it with an institution that every student is first, and every student will receive equal opportunity in learning," she said.

Promises

Sablan, during his speech, asked the students for help in convincing the



From left, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial right before the start of Sablan's ceremonial swearing-in that drew a huge crowd.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

governor and members of the Legislature to support the plan to build a new school.

"The governor is here today. Governor, will you give us your promise to help these students?" Sablan said, turning to Fitial.

The governor nodded and smiled at Sablan. The governor later confirmed that he supports the school project.

"We are going to work for it. I don't have the money for it but I will work for it," Fitial said in an interview.

Sablan also asked Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), who were also on stage with other lawmakers, for their commitment for a new junior high school.

"Governor, legislators, I'm going to press you a little harder: Can we have that new school in the next two years?" he asked.

Sablan later said he's always happy to be back home and be with his family, supporters, community members, current and former government officials and other dignitaries at his ceremonial swearing-in.

"Today shows that many of our people here don't have regard for political parties. We're here as a people and I'm very humbled," he said.

Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori also dropped by before the start of the ceremony. Mori later held a fundraising lunch at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, bishop emeritus Tomas Camacho, judges, justices, other local and federal government officials, and other dignitaries were also at the ceremonial swearing-in.

This came three weeks after Sablan was officially sworn-in on Jan. 5 by U.S. House Speaker John Boehner in Washington, D.C.

Sablan is the first and so far the only CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress as a result of a 2008 law that also placed the Commonwealth's immigration under federal control. He was re-elected in 2010 for another two-year term.

Better schools

The delegate said building a third junior high school on Saipan will reduce the number of students at Hopwood Junior High School by 50 percent, or from some 1,200 to 600 so they "could get more personalized attention from teachers," he said.

Sablan shared the Public School System's plan to build the new junior high between Saipan Southern High School and Koblerville Elementary School.

Besides Hopwood, the other existing junior high school on Saipan is the Chacha Oceanview Junior High School.

Sablan said PSS also wants to build an entirely new junior high school right inside the Hopwood campus.

"Six hundred of you at a new Kobler school; 600 of you at a new Hopwood school. So all 1,200 of you have a better place to learn," he said.

Sablan said there are ways to afford better schools.

"After all, didn't we find \$17 million for a new prison just a few years ago?

about the measure.

The funding sources originally being tapped for the tourism program—the hotel occupancy and beverage container taxes—were found to be encroaching on the same sources of funding to settle the government's debt to the Fund.

Under a court order, 30 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent of the beverage container tax are already reserved for payments to the Fund.

In Camacho's substitute bill, 25 percent of the beverage container tax collected and 70 percent of the ho-

tel occupancy tax collected shall go to the Marianas Visitors Authority. Thirty percent of the hotel occupancy taxes collected and 20 percent of the beverage container tax collected are still allotted and paid to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Camacho's bill passed the House on a 17-1 vote. Only Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) voted "no" on the bill, while Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) were absent during the voting.

When the bill went to the Senate,



A huge turnout for the ceremonial swearing-in of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

...So I say, if we can borrow \$17 million for a few criminals, we should be willing to borrow \$10 million to give the 1,200 of you at Hopwood the good schools you deserve," he said.

The delegate said the federal government is offering an interest-free loan program that the CNMI could use to pay for a new school.

"Interest-free. It doesn't get any better than that," he said.

Sablan said another option to pay for a new school is to use some of the \$50 million in building grants that the U.S. Congress has already given the CNMI.

"I know that CIP [capital improvement project] money is earmarked for other things. But the truth is the CNMI government is slow to spend it. And PSS could build your new junior high school in just a few months—like they did for Dandan Elementary—if we let them," he said.

In an interview later, Sablan said he will continue to work on the new school project.

"If government officials agreed to it, we will get the money. They just need to agree to it. I will get the money. Somebody needs to sign the papers, of course... I want it to go to PSS because they are good in managing grants," he said.

'How do we repay the loan?'

But some lawmakers shared some concerns.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said he fully supports projects that will improve the education of CNMI children, but he said he wants to know how the CNMI government would repay the loan.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said he would like to discuss this matter further with Sablan.

"He gave very general information about the loan," said Camacho. He said he supports educational projects, and congratulates Sablan on his second term. "I would like to work closely with him."

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) said he's impressed with Sablan's

speech and fully supports the plan of building a new school.

"My mom is a retired teacher and I fully support anything that will improve education," he said.

Lessons from a delegate

Early in his speech, Sablan talked about the choices each individual makes today to make a difference tomorrow. He also talked about the importance of ending bullying at schools and the community.

"If you are a bully, if you are intolerant of people who are different, if you resort to violence to make yourself important, then that is the kind of society you are creating today and tomorrow," he said.

Sablan cited his colleague, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona, who was shot in the head while talking to her constituents. She survived, but not six others including one of her staff and a girl.

"That's not the kind of society we want to live in. I can't say the man who pulled the trigger learned to be violent when he was your age. But I am sure that if he had learned to be a peacemaker at your age, he would not have done what he did," he said.

Aiko Erungel, 14, an eighth grader at Hopwood Junior High School, said she's happy to learn from the delegate that a new junior high school will be built.

"I'm also happy for students who will get their laptops next month," she said, adding that she already got hers last year.

Johnny Penalosa, 14, also an eighth grader at Hopwood, only had high praise for Sablan.

"All I know is that he does a good job. He also always supports education," he said.

Juan M. Sablan, president of the CNMI-wide Parent-Teacher Association, said he's glad to hear that the delegate has identified a source of funding to build a new school.

He said the project could also use CIP money sitting idly with the local government.

combined amount not to exceed \$3.1 million in calendar year 2011 and the same amount in 2012.

The expenditure authority is MVA, the CNMI's primary tourism agency. The amount will be deposited in an established Japan Air Service Stabilization Trust Fund.

MVA's tourism campaign will provide a \$100 incentive to travel agents for every passenger they will bring to Saipan from the Japanese cities of Osaka and Nagoya during so-called low peak periods. The next "Death Valley" period is from April to June.

TOURISM

From Page 1

ately pass during their first full leadership meeting on Jan. 7.

It took three weeks to finalize and pass the bill because of concerns about its funding sources.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) introduced yesterday a substitute version of his bill to clarify the sources of funding for the tourism program, after reviewing the NMI Retirement Fund's concerns

CPA offers Tinian Dynasty payment plan to settle debt

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has created a payment plan that would help the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino finally settle its unpaid obligation, but the company has yet to respond

to the agency's offer.

Executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the CPA board recently affirmed its decision to collect in full the \$310,000 Tinian Dynasty owes the agency.

"There will be no write-off or forgiveness of any kind because

we have a bond indenture to satisfy. CPA has already proposed payment plans to the company but it has yet to make a decision. Negotiation on the payment plan is ongoing between CPA and Tinian Dynasty," said Deleon Guerrero yesterday.

He refused to elaborate on the

details of the payment options, but assured that this will give Tinian Dynasty some "flexibility."

"We look at the capability of the company to pay. ... We will not establish a payment plan that is unrealistic," he added.

The \$310,000 obligation was the result of an unfulfilled settlement agreement between CPA and Tinian Dynasty's shipping arm, the Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. The ports authority had sued the shipping company for breach of contract relating to its failure to pay pas-

senger fees as required in their June 2006 lease agreement.

Citing financial challenges, Tinian Dynasty had asked the ports authority to write-off the total obligation with a one-time \$100,000 payment. It wants to settle this obligation to attract potential investors who plan to revive the operation of the Tinian ferry service just as soon as Tinian Shipping's "books" are cleared of this debt.

Tinian Shipping's ferry service between Saipan and Tinian was suspended in March 2009

because its vessels needed repair as well as comply with the American Bureau of Shipping's regulations. This resulted in Tinian residents and tourists relying solely on air transportation to travel to and from Tinian.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz had earlier appealed to the CPA board to write off the \$310,000 debt, saying that Tinian Dynasty has been the sole casino operator on island for more than 13 years and that it continues to generate funds for the municipality.

New CDA board nominee vows to prove his worth

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian native Nathan M. Quichocho vowed to work for the respect of his fellow island residents following his nomination to the Commonwealth Development Authority board.



Quichocho

"Although I am still relatively unknown in the CNMI, it is my intention to earn the respect of my people, through hard work, dedication, and unfaltering focus," he said in a statement.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated Quichocho on Thursday to represent Tinian in the CDA board.

Fitial stated in his letter of appointment that he and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos believe in Quichocho's qualifications and that he will devote his time and efforts to represent Tinian's interest in the board.

Should the Senate confirm his appointment, he will serve a four-year term that will expire on July 8, 2014.

Quichocho admitted that he has much to prove with his

young age but is determined to prove that the people's investment on his education "will continue to bear fruit."

Quichocho, who graduated from Tinian High School in June 2000, studied Micro/Molecular Biology at Portland State University.

He is a volunteer for the Tinian Economic Task Force and is currently doing his internship at Ramon K. Quichocho Law Office.

Quichocho challenged other young graduates who have gone abroad like him to return and contribute to the community in these times of uncertainty.

GMS takes pride in MathCourt performance of students

The school administration and staff as well as the parents and supporters congratulate all the participants and winners from Green Meadow School at the MathCourt competition held on Jan. 22, 2011, at Koblerville Elementary School. Special thanks go to all those who were involved in preparing the students for the competition and to all the parents and teachers who served as proctors during the competition.

KINDER 5 NUMBERS:

2nd Place: Raphael Galang
4th Place: Jill Anne Mallari
4th Place: Angeline Cacadac

ALGEBRA/DSP:

2nd Place: Cloe Lagmay
2nd Place: Jill Anne Mallari
3rd Place: Lyndon Digno

MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:

1st Place: Alliah Schadeck
2nd Place: Jill Anne Mallari
3rd Place: Angeline Cacadac
3th Place: Lyndon Digno

3rd Place: Raphael Galang

1ST GRADE NUMBERS:

2nd Place: Princess Casey Melchor
4th Place: Aljanah Manabat

ALGEBRA/DSP:

2nd Place: Princess Casey Melchor
2nd Place: Joshua Alfred

MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:

2nd Place: Princess Casey Melchor
2nd Place: Naveen Lucenara

2ND GRADE NUMBERS:

1st Place: Jhanilyn Cruz
2nd Place: Mikee Mendoza
3rd Place: Christian Dean Mendoza

ALGEBRA /DSP:

1st Place: Xavier Gatmaitan
2nd Place: Renz Lester Satur

MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:

3rd Place: Mikee Mendoza
3rd Place: Jhanilyn Cruz
2nd Place: Xavier Gatmaitan
3rd Place: Aldraine Galang

3RD GRADE NUMBERS:

1st Place: Ashley Reganit
5th Place: Kimvherly Dela Cruz

ALGEBRA /DSP:

2nd Place: Dustin Ross Salilin
MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:
3rd Place: Art Vincent Alfeche

4TH GRADE NUMBERS:

2nd Place: Angel Legaspi
ALGEBRA /DSP:

MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:

3rd Place: Pionnah Rosej Gregorio
1st Place: Gelomener Narciso
2nd Place: Angel Legaspi

5TH GRADE NUMBERS:

3rd Place: Amelito Dalusong
ALGEBRA /DSP:

3rd Place: Aira Monica Usi
MEASUREMENT/GEOMETRY:
5th Place: Aira Monica Usi

Ana Lisa Quiambao: MathCourt

Coordinator

Proctors: Shirley Galvan, Elaisa Palattao, Lea Alfred, and Sony Natividad

93 trades institute students 'level up'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 93 students were promoted by the Northern Marianas Trades Institute during the Student Achievement Ceremony 7th Cycle on Wednesday.

The students completed various courses and programs in different levels offered by NMTI, including plumbing, culinary arts, basic automotive theory, automotive brake theory, automotive brake systems lab, steering and suspension, and hospitality and tourism.

In his remarks, NMTI president Anthony Pellegrino recounted how the students' family members were once at

the forefront of occupations that require skills such as carpentry and plumbing before nonresident workers arrived on island.

Taking into account the end of the transition period for foreign workers by December 2014, Pellegrino urged the students to continue obtaining the necessary skills to become the future workforce of the islands.

"We're building a new and better CNMI. We shall overcome," said Pellegrino.

Affirming Pellegrino's message, NMTI instructor Josephine Mesta noted the need for residents to become prepared and equipped with experience

and skills to run the CNMI.

Mesta, who is also the human resources manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan, reminded the graduates that they must also possess the right attitude and work ethics aside from the certificates they received after completing their courses.

"Just because you have experience or have completed your classes at NMTI, you're not guaranteed a job," she said.

Mesta encouraged the graduates to be passionate with whatever job they choose and continue to learn and get educated.

"Remember that when love and skill work together, you can expect a masterpiece," she added.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Fr. Celso Magbanua offers the invocation during the Northern Marianas Trades Institute Student Achievement Ceremony 7th Cycle on Jan. 26. A total of 93 students from various courses were promoted on Wednesday.

Malae is guest speaker at Chamber meeting

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Malae will be the guest speaker in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.

Malae was officially appointed executive director of the utilities firm three months ago. He oversees an agency continuing to work to comply with federal stipulated orders.

Aside from that, CUC is also working to address service theft and install-

ing prepaid meters. CUC's water division has begun paying for its power usage and the utility is continuing to struggle to ensure that aging power production plants are maintained appropriately and run efficiently.

On a topic closer to consumers' hearts, CUC's leveled energy adjustment clause or LEAC rates have also begun to increase.

"Hear from Mr. Malae at the meeting about where CUC is right now,

where it is headed, and what challenges he expects to encounter along the way—both for the utilities firm and the consumers. This is also a great opportunity to ask questions and better understand the issues that concern you about utility rates and other matters facing CUC and the community in this regard," said the Chamber in its press release.

Registration for next week's meeting and lunch will begin at 11:30am and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, the meeting is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. (PR)



Malae



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School students have their picture taken after participating in the MathCourt competition, held on Jan. 22, 2011, at Koblerville Elementary School.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Democracy is less secure

By MARIFELI PEREZ-STABLE
THE MIAMI HERALD

Even before the Great Recession, democracy across the globe was suffering setbacks. In 2007, Freedom House recorded a net decline in its ranking of countries as free, partly free or not free. Since then, the downturn has continued, making the last four years the longest period of decline in 40 years.

In the Americas, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela experienced the most serious deterioration. Five other countries ranked partly free with Cuba as the unfree loner. Still, most countries are free and democracy is holding its own.

Freedom House's index provides the backdrop for "The Political Culture of Democracy, 2010," a study based on interviews with almost 44,000 respondents in 26 countries. Since 2004, the Latin American Public Opinion Project—housed at Vanderbilt University—has issued reports on the region's citizens.

The most recent is especially useful. Despite hard economic times, Latin Americans did not turn on democracy. Mitchell Seligson and his research team offer an intriguing explanation. In many countries, governments tackled the crisis ably. Sound economic policies had already established good macroeconomic foundations and kept inflation low, which, no doubt, helped. For the most part, political classes have learned their economic lessons.

Even if two out of five respondents hold the current administration or its predecessor responsible for the crisis, only one in 20 attributed it to democracy. About 13 percent blamed the economic system and a similar share put the onus on themselves, the citizens. Less than 8 percent pinned responsibility on rich countries. Havana, Caracas and other kindred capitals take note.

Given Latin America's not-so-distant past, many citizens probably didn't think the latest crisis to be the worst. In the late 1990s, for example, hard times did take a toll on the public's attitudes toward democracy. Once growth returned in 2003, however, many countries made inroads against poverty and expanded the middle classes. The 2010 LAPOP survey results reflect a growing maturity that should bode well for the region.

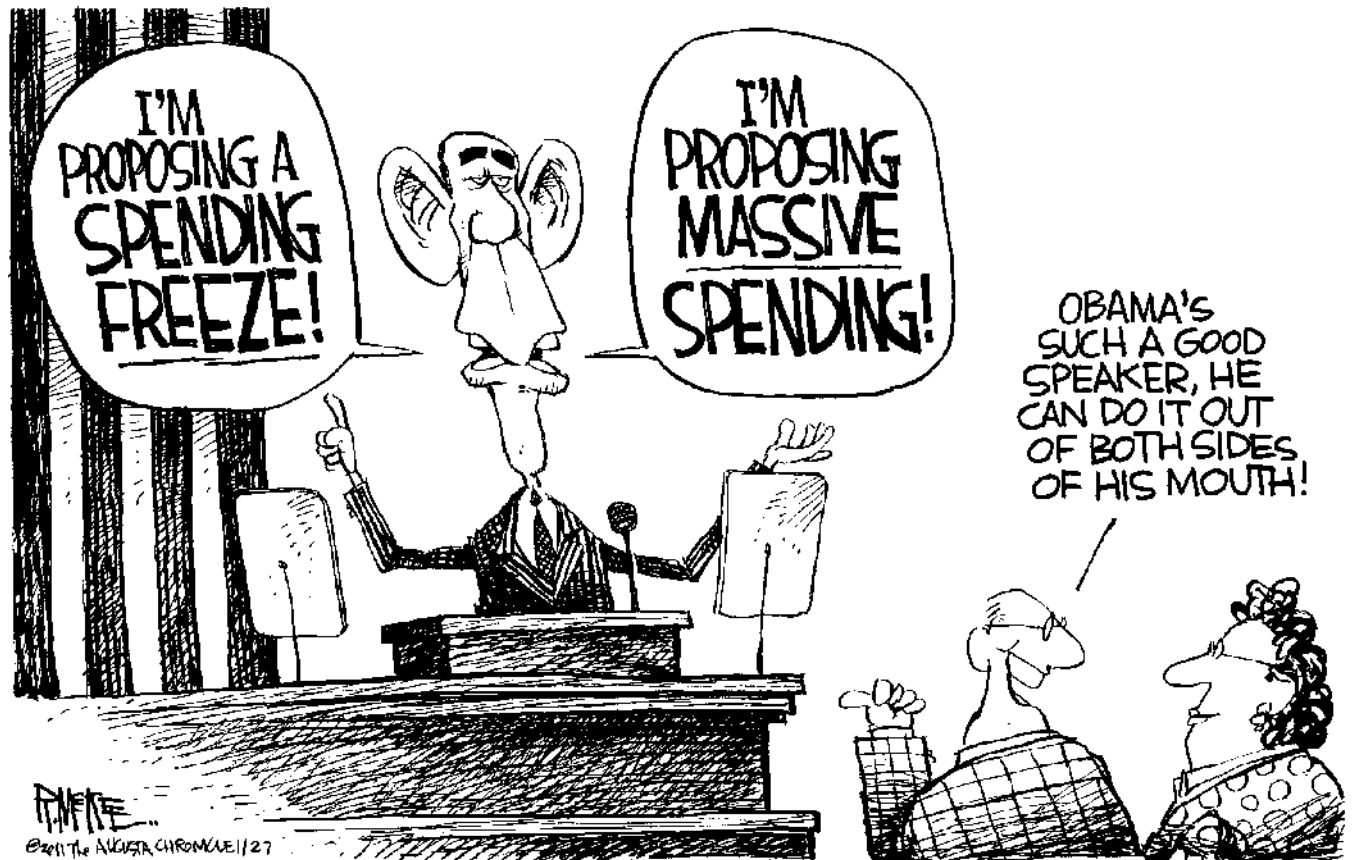
All the same, political and economic elites better not rest on their laurels. There's much yet to do to consolidate democracy in Latin America. Even if a widespread return of dictatorships is unimaginable, the institutional architecture that sustains open and democratic societies is not secure. Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua come to mind but so does Argentina, which has yet to half bury Peronism, as Mexico has the worst of the old Institutional Revolutionary Party.

LAPOP always asks respondents five questions to measure system support on a 1-100 scale:

- Do the courts guarantee a fair trial?
- Do you respect your country's political institutions?
- Are citizen rights well protected?
- Are you proud of living under your country's political system?
- Should citizens support the political system?

Comparing answers from 2008 and 2010, the crisis years, yielded unexpected results. In Honduras, support rose significantly from 46.4 to 60.4. Before the coup, a majority held the system in low esteem. After the November 2009 election,

See DEMOCRACY on Next Page



Another video weekend

It is not that we have a lot of time on our hands. When we returned the seven videos we rented from over MLK on a rent-five-get-seven deal, we could not help but notice the many shows we've missed.

In our moment of salivating weakness, we picked up the following in the order of their viewing: 1) *An Inconvenient Truth* with Al Gore and climate change. We read the book, a tome in content and size. Not a political groupie but we shook Gore's hands once with Bill Clinton while attending a White House lawn dinner with other delegates to a nationwide conference on development zones in mid-'90s. I was with the Hawaii delegates and the duo impressed me most in their bounding into our midst like Newman and Redford in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. I am blabbering because I am avoiding the painful reality of this movie on climate change. When the ice from the poles submerges the Marshall Islands where I lived in the early '80s, will we still have a nation-state as the Marshallese disperse elsewhere?

2) *Rabbit Proof Fence* is about the Australian aborigine Stolen Generation when A. O. Neville for 25 years was classic patriarch and misguided racist in trying to "save" the aboriginal half-caste by forcibly taking them away from their homes and "liberating" them genetically into getting back to majority white blood. The film tells of abducted girls who ran away from their new home 1,400 miles away and return home by following the rabbit-proof fence built in Western Australia to keep rodents out of the range and farms of East Oz. Shakespearean actor Kenneth Branagh, formerly known as Emma Thompson's husband (now ex) played Neville.

Upon assumption of office Aussie, ex-PM Kevin Rudd in 2008 publicly apologized to the Oz aborigines for this historical mishap and other mistreatments aborigines received from white Australia in the last 150 years. This was a global event. In our homeland, Bill Clinton in 1993 signed the US Congress' Resolution of Apology into law acknowledging the illegal participation of the United States military and civilians deposing constituted authority in Aloha land and further conceding that the Hawaiians never relinquished sovereignty of the land, but the Supreme Court in 2009 ruled that whatever statehood acquired and legitimized cannot be retroactively returned. Both has the feel of "we want you to know we are sorry, but really, we are not!"

3) *Flawless* is symbiotic pleasure to us. Retiring night commercial cleaner Michael Caine gets vengeful against an insurance firm that denied medical aid to his ailing wife who subsequently succumbed to cancer, and frequently bypassed for promotion female company manager Demi Moore reluctantly assist him in a vault diamond heist. A happy ending with a twist accorded us momentary pleasure over this suspense thriller.

As did Tom Hanks and Ron Howard's sequel of Robert Langdon's character in 4) *Angels & Demons*. This time, long shadows of

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



the Illuminati, erstwhile Christians who went underground for the Vatican's persecution of their enlightened science, provide drama in the death of a Pope. I was in the Vatican August 1978 when Paul IV died so the Sistine Chapel was closed, though we did see the damaged *Pieta* of Michaelangelo in St. Peter's Basilica. The setting is a bit familiar.

Antimatter from Geneva's CERN lab is stolen and used to threaten a Conclave to elect a new Pope, while four favored red hats are abducted and summarily executed starting at 8pm on the hour every hour before midnight when the antimatter is set to unleash two Hiroshimas on the Vatican and Rome. Could not possibly reveal the ending, could I?

5) *Crazy Heart* has Jeff Bridges twang "this ain't no place for the weary soul." We just watched Bridges play a U.S. Marshall in *True Grit* at our local movie theatre, marvelously plays an aging alcoholic (again) country Western singer-songwriter Bad Blake in this one. Bridges earned an Academy Award for this performance, a feel good Hollywood movie from the gritty southwest.

Watching seven heavyweight movies in five days can cause constipation. Eastwood in one sitting is like taking an overdose of purgatives. Clint serves 6) *Million Dollar Baby* in the ambience of four taut tight ropes, a dramatic story of an over-aged but determined female boxer on her way to the top of her weight division, reluctantly trained by an aging trainer—Eastwood after 70 does not look old at all, and 7) *Gran Torino* about Southeast Asian Hmong migrants to the U.S. forced to leave Vietnam-Laos after supporting US forces v. Vietcongs find a cranky aging Korean vet curmudgeon in their neighborhood. We are not a fan of Clint's spaghetti cowboy roles and Dirty Harry politics, but the deft hands of a directorial maestro and seasoned actor is at work here, not to mention the surprising religious melodrama of authentic and realistic guilt, confession, accountability, and absolution that runs through both movies.

Ay, yah! What's left for a secular Christian atheist to say and do? We are holding on to Darwin's Icthus-shape fish!

We are staying away from movies awhile. Yes, we said that after last week's rentals but this time, we are keeping our resolve. McCluhan was right: the medium is the message is also the massage. Our soul has had its share of a workout.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Death by a thousand leaks

Somebody up there must really hate the Arab-Israeli peace process. Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse, that the odds against serious negotiations couldn't get any longer and the hope for a two-state solution couldn't be more forlorn, we now have the Palestinian version of WikiLeaks.

The documents obtained and released this week by al-Jazeera—assuming their authenticity—don't mean the end of the peace process (that never ends). But the revelations are deeply embarrassing to the Palestinian Authority and will put a chill on pragmatism and creativity for a while. More important, the episode reflects some serious underlying problems with the negotiating process, which will make quick or easy progress unlikely anytime soon.

First, a little reality therapy. Anyone who has seriously followed the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations for at least the last decade would not have been surprised by the positions ascribed to the Palestinians: willingness to recognize Israeli sovereignty over disputed neighborhoods/settlements in East Jerusalem; territorial swaps; limits on the number of returning refugees. They have been in the public domain in one form or another since the Camp David summit of July 2000.

Revealing them in “official documents” clearly puts them in a different light. But anybody who has been really paying attention would never conclude that the Palestinian Authority's negotiators suddenly decided to sell out the Palestinian patrimony or betray Palestinian national aspirations. The Palestinian positions contained in these documents constitute the public parameters within which mainstream Israelis, Palestinians and American negotiators have been operating.

Then there is the question of what these positions really represent. At no point in the last 10 years have Israelis and Palestinians been close to an agreement. The documents reflect a particularly fertile period of exchanges between Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas and then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. But no

agreement was reached, nor were any authoritative conclusions that bound either Israel or the Palestinian Authority, or for that matter the United States.

Indeed, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators live and die by the “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed” rule. That enables a negotiator to probe, offer up all kinds of positions and trial balloons, and to look for flexibility by demonstrating your own. All of this can occur without committing yourself to positions locked into concrete. Nobody was selling the farm or giving away the store. They were negotiating.

The timing of the leaks also has to be considered in judging the reaction to them. Had these leaks occurred when the situation was more hopeful, it would have been much less of a story. If Israelis and Palestinians were closer to announcing agreement that East Jerusalem would be the capital of the new Palestinian state, for example, the fact that Palestinians had agreed to allow the Israelis sovereignty over certain areas would have been far less controversial. Despair and hopelessness fills the air these days, and the leakers took advantage of that.

Unfortunately, we live in a world—and not just in the dysfunctional Middle East—in which perception is reality. These documents—and any that follow, particularly if they highlight anything that looks like collusion between Israel and the Palestinian Authority—will damage Abbas' credibility and buck up his internal opposition and Hamas.

The leaks also point out several serious problems in the negotiations.

First, there's no doubt that the gap is large between what Palestinian Authority negotiators purportedly were offering and what is acceptable on the Palestinian street and according to its narrative. The differences are not only between Israel and the Palestinian Authority but among Palestinians. The fact that the Palestinians today are like Noah's Ark, with two of everything—two polities (Gaza and the West Bank), two security services, two sets of funders—is part of the problem. But the main issue is

By AARON DAVID MILLER

Los Angeles Times

Aaron David Miller, a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, served as a Middle East negotiator in Republican and Democratic administrations. He is the author of The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



that neither the Palestinian Authority nor the government of Israel has done nearly enough to condition their respective publics about the tough choices that need to be made if an agreement is to be reached.

Second, this isn't just a Palestinian story. The documents don't really reveal much about the Israeli positions on core issues. We know that Olmert was prepared to go further than any of his predecessors on all of these issues. But the storyline that is left is that the Israelis offered nothing in return on the key issues. And the logic of the moment would seem to argue: If the Palestinians were so flexible, why didn't you grab the deal? You really do have a Palestinian partner. As harmful as these leaks are to Palestinians, the Israelis don't look very good either.

Finally, these revelations are bound to have a chilling effect on a process already in the deep freeze. Palestinians will be looking over their shoulder before they risk additional creative, clever or pragmatic compromises. And the Obama administration is going to have an even tougher time extracting much flexibility from either side.

An Israeli negotiator once told me that you could be dead, or dead and buried. The peace process is just dead. It will be back with another life, but the complications in the wake of these leaks don't suggest a lot of confidence that that life will be a long or robust one.

Exploring a stranger's generosity

In the height of the Great Depression, Myrna Jury was in economic despair, which explains her reply to the advertisement of a stranger who had run an ad in the Dec. 18, 1933, issue of the Canton (Ohio) Repository. The ad was titled “In Consideration of the White Collar Man!” and offered assistance from an anonymous source to families in need.

Jury wrote and reported that her husband had been out of work three years but was now making “40 cents,” adding, “We're in debt.” The Jurys then had four children, including Charles, age 7. “They all need shoes and clothes, and Charles needs an overcoat.” She mentioned that her spouse would not permit her to seek assistance for the clothes, hence her P.S.: “I decided to write without telling my husband.”

Nearly 75 years to the day after Jury wrote that letter, on Christmas Eve 2008, Ted Gup, a former reporter for the *Washington Post*, knocked on the door of one of her descendants. He wanted to know what had happened to the family. His sleuthing would uncover that 7-year-old Charles required an overcoat, in part, because his responsibilities had come to include hunting for the family's dinner.

“He routinely brought with him a 16-gauge shotgun and .22-caliber pistol, boarded a city bus, paid the five cents (except when the driver took pity and let him ride for free), and rode the bus to the end of the line and out into the countryside. There, he scoured the fields and woods for rabbits and pheasants,” Gup would later detail.

When the state offered Charles' father seeds for their garden, the patriarch refused, despite the pleas of his son. We know this because Charles' children, Charles Jr. and Elizabeth, remember their father telling them of conflict over whether to accept help.

Why was Ted Gup so interested in the plight of the Jury family?

Because his grandfather, Sam Stone, was the man who had run the newspaper ad offering to help his neighbors “spend a merry and joyful Christmas.” This, despite the fact that Stone was Jew-

ish. Stone used an alias, Mr. B. Virdot—the moniker a combination of the names of his daughters, Barbara, Virginia, and Dorothy.

Gup's grandfather sent 150 families checks of \$5—not an insignificant sum in 1933, considering that bread was then 7 cents a loaf. He took to his grave the secret of his generosity. And there it remained for more than seven decades until Gup's mother, at the time of her 80th birthday, handed over a dusty suitcase to her son, which contained copies of the letters and check receipts. Gup, in his role as both family archivist and former investigative reporter, then endeavored to learn why his grandfather was moved to make contributions and what happened to the receipts.

The result is a poignant manuscript, “A Secret Gift: How One Man's Kindness—and a Trove of Letters—Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression.”

Today, with unemployment just below 10 percent, we can learn a great deal from those who were suffering at a rate more than twice that. The requests sent to Mr. B. Virdot were heartbreaking:

“... I experienced the loss of all of my stock holdings, my home and everything of value I possessed together with 35 years of hard work and efforts, leaving me without a dollar to support my family,” wrote Frank J. Dick.

Many wanted loans, not gifts:

“I could use \$2 Xmas so that my wife & I could go to her home in Alliance, but as a loan,” wrote Geo. Carlin.

Some admitted to brushes with the law:

“Becoming restless, my husband went from place to place looking for work. ... Finally, after every effort was exhausted, he fell in with some bad company and finally landed in the Mansfield reformatory where is listed as a depression inmate,” wrote Mrs. A. Wright.

All of the letters were beautifully written:

“In this evening's Repository, I see that you want to put a little Christmas cheer in homes where it is needed, so I am daring to write to you in the hopes that I may be one of the fortunate ones,”

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael Smerconish writes a weekly column for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may contact him via www.smerconish.com.



wrote A.C. Bennafield.

Some asked for assistance for others:

“But I have a very Dear friend that can't afford to get a paper to even see your ad,” wrote Mrs. Ruby Blythe, without mentioning that her very Dear friend were her own parents.

And many wrote thank yous:

“It was put to good use paying for 2 pairs of shoes for my girls and other little necessities. I hope some day I have the pleasure of knowing to whom we are indebted for this very generous gift,” George W. Monnot wrote.

The only recipient to learn of the identity of their benefactor was Helen Palm, who had written to Mr. B. Virdot at the age of 14. “I am writing this because I need clothing. And sometimes we run out of food. My father does not want to ask for charity.” While Sam Stone carried his identity to his grave, his grandson, Ted Gup, found presumably the only living recipient of Sam's largesse just as he was putting “A Secret Gift” to bed.

Now, she knows what the rest never did. That Stone's ability to brighten their Christmas, a holiday he would himself not celebrate, was a recognition that he personally had triumphed, that he had bested persecution, rejection, and poverty. And that in the midst of the Great Depression, he had found some degree of solace by giving. Four years later, Sam Stone would declare personal bankruptcy. And he would overcome that, too.

DEMOCRACY

From Page 10

support soared. Ecuadoreans and Nicaraguans ranked the political system significantly higher while Venezuelans rated theirs about the same (just below 50).

Public opinion applauded the election of opposition parties. In Uruguay, Panama, Paraguay and El Salvador, citizens expressed notably higher support. Uruguay has the highest ranking. In 2010,

Paraguayans still gave their political system a score below 50 but strikingly higher than the under-30 figure of 2008. Panamanians voted for a center-right government. Salvadorans elected the center-left Mauricio Funes, the most remarkable alternation of all, given the country's bloody history.

Like Cuba, Haiti is an outlier but for different reasons. Haitians don't trust their justice system nor respect their political institutions nor consider their basic rights protected nor have pride in the political system. Still, Haitians rank highest in activism, whether political protests or participation in religious and community groups or

parents', professional and women's associations.

Haitians—the poorest in the Americas—are the best citizens.






The Vanderbilt team doesn't include Cuba. LAPOP, after all, studies public opinion in democracies. Yet, I suspect that, even after a transition, Cubans may well rank toward the bottom. Rebuilding their spirit will be harder than establishing democratic institutions.

Marifeli Perez-Stable is senior nonresident fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington, a professor at Florida International University and a columnist for the Miami Herald.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly sunny and windy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼77

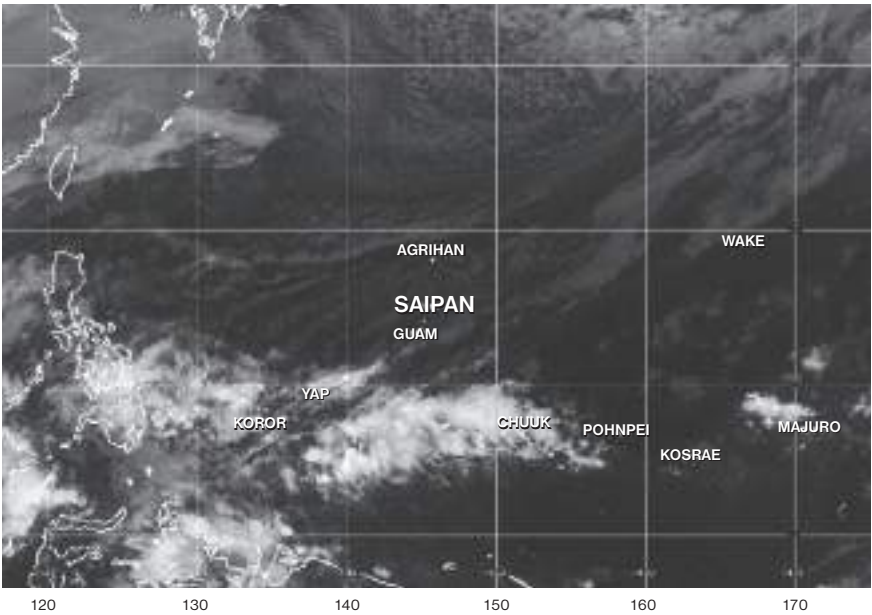
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲37 ▼11
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲60 ▼44
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲41 ▼32
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼46
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲90 ▼65
Miami	Sunny	▲73 ▼52
New York	Snow	▲34 ▼20
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲41 ▼32
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲37 ▼26
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲36 ▼22
Rome	Showers	▲54 ▼42
Salem	Showers	▲52 ▼39
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲57 ▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲23 ▼8
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▼31
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲44 ▼30

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	
9:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
2:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
10:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 24N180 to 19N163E then continues as a shear line passing just south of Guam to beyond 130E at 6N. Cloudiness and patchy rain extend along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary. Isolated thunderstorms extend north of the shear line to near 11N west of 142E. This area includes Yap and Koror. A near-equatorial trough extends west-northwestward from 1N147E to beyond 130E at 3N. Scattered showers are found west of 140E from EQ to 9N. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Chuuk and west of Pohnpei within 140 miles of a line extending from 5N142E to 8N148E to 8N152E to 5N158E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers near Majuro between 4N and 10N east of a line from 10N169E to 4N165E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:26 AM	1:55 PM
Sunday	3:22 AM	2:51 PM
Monday	4:16 AM	3:46 PM
Tuesday	5:05 AM	4:40 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	5:33 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 	Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm	Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143	Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)
	Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm	San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131	Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158
	Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273	Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm	Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am
	Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568	PROTESTANT 	Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm
	Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007	Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm	Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday	Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540	Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)	Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass	Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org	Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm	Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm	Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions	Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm	Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991	Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680	Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620	Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English	Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)	Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm	VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246
Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.			

Business

United Continental posts \$160M net income

CHICAGO, Jan. 26, 2011—United Continental Holdings, Inc. yesterday announced fourth-quarter and pro forma full-year 2010 financial results.

UAL results for the fourth quarter include the financial results of its two operating subsidiaries, United Airlines and Continental Airlines. Prior to the merger on Oct. 1, 2010, UAL results only included the financial results of United Airlines. Pro forma results that consolidate the financial results for Continental for periods prior to Oct. 1, 2010, are included for meaningful year-over-year comparisons.

■ UAL reported fourth-quarter 2010 net income of \$160 million or \$0.44 diluted earnings per share excluding \$485 million of special items consisting primarily of merger-related costs and other special charges, an improvement of \$347 million compared to the pro forma results year-over-year. On a GAAP basis, UAL reported fourth-quarter net loss of \$325 million or \$1.01 diluted loss per share.

■ UAL reported pro forma full-year 2010 net income of \$1.6 billion excluding \$765 million of special items, resulting in a net margin of 4.8 percent. On a GAAP basis, UAL reported full-year 2010 net income of \$253 million.

■ UAL consolidated passenger revenue increased 15.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010

House GOP considers privatizing Medicare

WASHINGTON (AP)—Months after they hammered Democrats for cutting Medicare, House Republicans are debating whether to relaunch their quest to privatize the health program for seniors. House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is testing support for his idea to replace Medicare with a fixed payment to buy a private medical plan from a menu of coverage options.

Party leaders will determine if the so-called voucher plan will be part of the budget Republicans put forward in the spring.

“No decisions have been made on the details of our House GOP budget,” Michael Steel, a spokesman for Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Thursday. “There are a lot of ideas out there, and we’re going to listen to our members and the American people.”

Medicare was one of the most highly charged issues during last year’s congressional elections, which put the House back in GOP control. Republicans slammed Democrats for cutting Medicare by about 6 percent over 10 years to finance President Barack

compared to the pro forma results for the same period in 2009. Fourth-quarter 2010 consolidated passenger revenue per available seat mile (PRASM) increased 11.5 percent compared to the pro forma results year-over-year.

■ UAL ended the year with \$8.7 billion in unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments.

■ Employees of the combined company earned \$224 million in profit sharing for full-year 2010.

“Thanks to the hard work of my co-workers, we made a fourth-quarter profit, excluding special items, in a typically weak quarter,” said Jeff Smisek, UAL’s president and chief executive officer. “While making significant progress integrating United and Continental, we never lost focus on running a good operation. We made a solid profit for the year, and we look forward to distributing \$224 million in profit sharing to our co-workers on Valentine’s Day.”

For the fourth quarter of 2010, UAL total revenue was \$8.4 billion, an increase of 15.0 percent compared to the pro forma results for the same period in 2009. Consolidated passenger revenue for the fourth quarter rose 15.8 percent, or \$1.0 billion, compared to the pro forma results for the same period in 2009. *(Continental)*

Obama’s health overhaul.

But replacing Medicare’s open-ended benefit with a fixed payment would cut projected spending much more deeply.

“Anyone who doesn’t think privatization will mean severe cuts to Medicare benefits, I have a bridge I’d like to sell them,” said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. “Privatization will make the cuts previously proposed by either party look tame.”

Republicans say it may be the only way to preserve taxpayer-funded health care for seniors in an aging society. The Congressional Budget Office reported this week that the government will borrow 40 cents of every dollar it spends this year, as the deficit hits a staggering \$1.5 trillion. Over the long term, health care costs that keep growing more rapidly than the economy are the biggest challenge to the budget.

The idea of a Medicare voucher recently received bipartisan support from a debt reduction panel led by former Republican Sen. Pete Domenici of New Mexico and prominent Democratic economist Alice Rivlin, a former Federal Reserve vice chairman.

Nation

Challenger: 25 years later, a still painful wound

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—For many, no single word evokes as much pain. Challenger. A quarter-century later, images of the exploding space shuttle still signify all that can go wrong with technology and the sharpest minds. The accident on Jan. 28, 1986—a scant 73 seconds into flight, nine miles above the Atlantic for all to see—remains NASA's most visible failure.

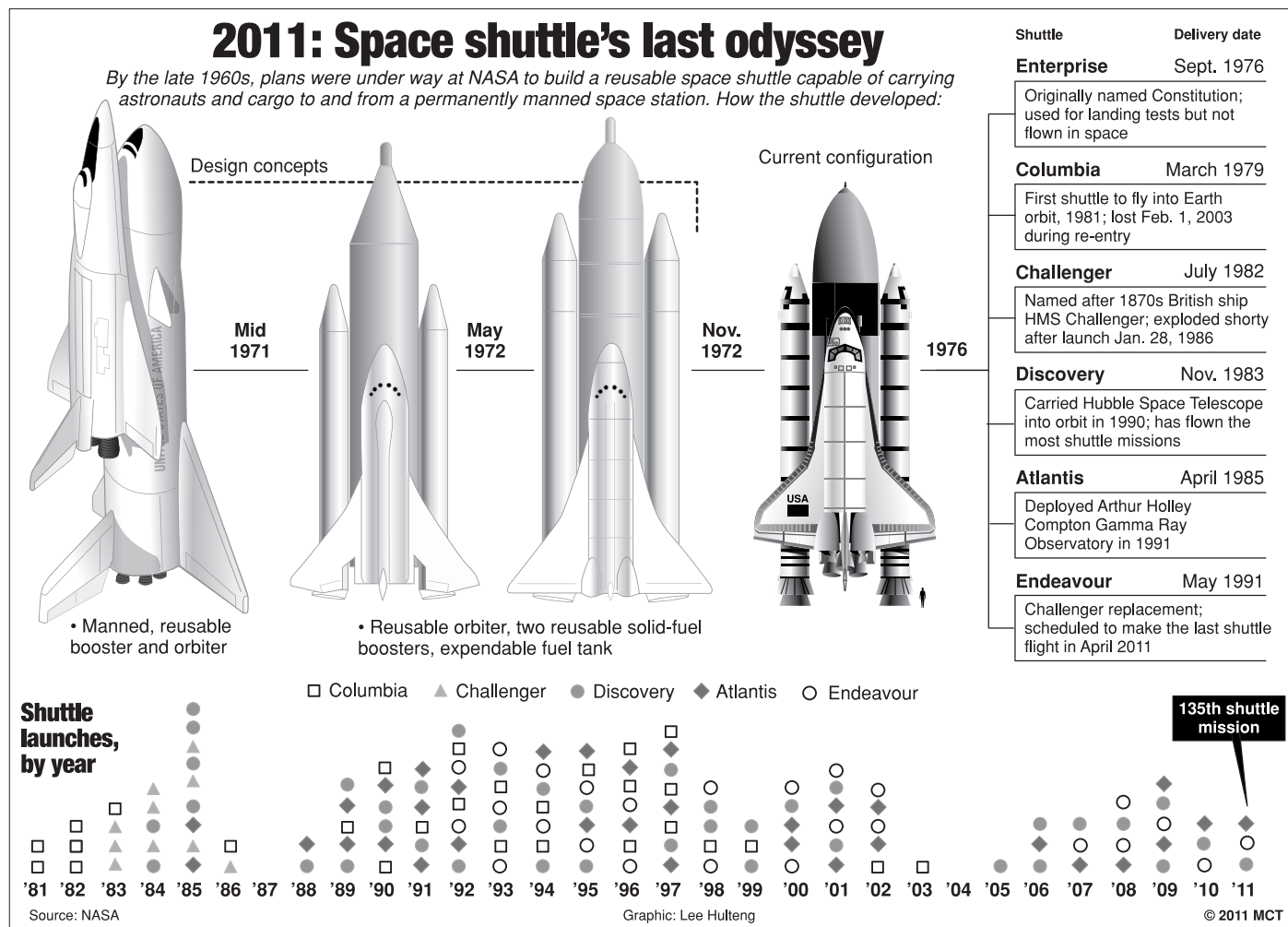
It was the world's first high-tech catastrophe to unfold on live TV. Adding to the anguish was the young audience: School children everywhere tuned in that morning to watch the launch of the first schoolteacher and ordinary citizen bound for space, Christa McAuliffe.

She never made it. McAuliffe and six others on board perished as the cameras rolled, victims of stiff O-ring seals and feeble bureaucratic decisions.

It was, as one grief and trauma expert recalls, "the beginning of the age when the whole world knew what happened as it happened."

"That was kind of our pilot study for all the rest to come, I think. It was so ghastly," said Sally Karioth, a professor in Florida State University's school of nursing.

The crew compartment shot out of the fireball, intact, and continued upward another three miles before plummeting. The free fall lasted more than two minutes. There was no para-



chute to slow the descent, no escape system whatsoever; NASA had skipped all that in shuttle development. Space travel was considered so ordinary, in fact, that the Challenger seven wore little more than blue coveralls and skimpy motorcycle-type helmets for takeoff.

In a horrific flash, the most di-

verse space crew ever—including one black, one Japanese-American and two women, one of them a Jew—was gone. The name of NASA's second oldest shuttle was forever locked in a where-were-you moment.

"You say 'Challenger' and then we see that figure of smoke in the sky," said Karioth, who

teaches death and dying classes.

There has been a growing list of calamities since then.

Waco. Oklahoma City. Columbine. 9/11. Shuttle Columbia. Katrina. Virginia Tech. And now, Tucson.

With so much carnage, another space catastrophe wouldn't have the same impact as Challenger,

Karioth noted. "We're used to everybody dying now," she said.

The death of a young, vivacious schoolteacher, combined with NASA's stubborn refusal to share information about the accident and the realization that America's space program was fallible, added to the nation's collective pain.

President Ronald Reagan's poetic tribute soothed the day's raw emotions.

"The crew of the space shuttle Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives," Reagan told a grieving nation after canceling that night's State of the Union address. "We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and 'slipped the surly bonds of Earth' to 'touch the face of God.'"

NASA safely had launched shuttles 24 times before, and a sense of routine and hurry-it-up had crept in. The space agency wanted to pull off 15 missions in 1986. Repeated delays with Columbia on that year's first flight and then with Challenger were spoiling the effort.

The first federal Martin Luther King holiday had just been observed. NASA's Voyager 2 probe, flying farther than any previous spacecraft, had swung past Uranus, discovering 10 new moons. "That's What Friends Are For," the AIDS charity anthem, topped the music charts. And a 37-year-old schoolteacher from Concord, N.H., was about to rocket into orbit.

"Imagine a history teacher making history," McAuliffe observed before the flight. She got an apple from a technician atop the ice-encrusted launch pad, before boarding Challenger one final time.

Ill. high court: Emanuel can run for Chicago mayor

CHICAGO (AP)—The Illinois Supreme Court put Rahm Emanuel back on the ballot for Chicago mayor on Thursday, reviving his campaign to lead the country's third-largest city.

The former White House chief of staff was thrown off the Feb. 22 ballot by an Illinois appellate court for not meeting a residency requirement because he hadn't lived in Chicago for a year before the race. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in his favor.

Emanuel lived for nearly two years in Washington working for President Barack Obama until he moved back to Chicago in October to run for mayor.

Emanuel, who has said he always intended to return to Chicago and was only living in Washington at the request of the president, had asked the Supreme Court to overturn the appeals court ruling. Within minutes of the ruling, Emanuel was at a downtown Chicago public transit station shaking hands with residents.

He never stopped campaigning as the controversy evolved. His spokesman said Emanuel was en route to the campaign appearance when he received word of the ruling and was

scheduled to participate in televised debate Thursday evening.

In their appeal, Emanuel's attorneys called Monday's appeal court ruling "one of the most far-reaching election law rulings" ever issued in Illinois, not only because of its effect on the mayoral race but for "the unprecedented restriction" it puts on future candidates.

His lawyers raised several points, including that the appeals court applied a stricter definition of "residency" than the one used for voters. They say Illinois courts have never required can-

didates to be physically present in the state to seek office there.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court called the appeals court's basis for deciding that Emanuel could not be on the ballot "without any foundation in Illinois law."

The mayoral race and Emanuel's campaign had been thrown into disarray after the appellate court ruling on Monday. The following day, the state Supreme Court ordered Chicago elections officials to stop printing ballots without Emanuel's name on them. Chicago election officials said they had printed nearly 300,000 ballots without Emanuel's name before they abruptly stopped.

boater," Harrington told The Associated Press.

"I don't like it be considered as a prank," he said. "It's more of a movement."

On Jan. 2, Harrington, his older brother Andrew and two neighbors lifted the instrument, which had been trashed during a holiday party, onto the family's 22-foot boat and took it out on Biscayne Bay. There, they left it on the highest spot along a sandbar.



Emanuel

Solved: Teen put piano on Miami sandbar; gone now

MIAMI (AP)—The rumors can stop swirling: The baby grand piano that turned up on a Miami sandbar was burned to tatters by New Year's revelers, then brought to its new home by a television designer's teenage son who said Thursday he hoped the idea might help him get into a prestigious art school.

And now, it has been removed.

Captain John Nicholson with Biscayne Towing and Salvage

said the piano was taken away, but couldn't give other details.

Florida wildlife officials had wanted it gone within 24 hours—or else the teen and his parents could have faced face felony dumping charges.

Theories of the instrument's origin had abounded, with some saying they saw helicopters and television crews hovering around the piano. Others tried to claim responsibility, but Nicholas Harrington, 16, had his en-

deavor on videotape.

Harrington said he wanted to leave his artistic mark on Miami's seascape as the artist Christo did in the early 1980s when he draped 11 small islands in Biscayne Bay with hot pink fabric. And if it helped the high school junior get into Manhattan's Cooper Union college, that would be OK, too.

"I wanted to create a whimsical, surreal experience. It's out of the everyday for the

ACROSS THE NATION

Hawaii lawmakers want release of Obama birth info

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii's government would charge \$100 for a copy of President Barack Obama's birth records under a bill introduced in the state Legislature by five Democrats. The bill would change a privacy law barring the release of birth records unless the person requesting them has a tangible interest. The measure hasn't been scheduled for a public hearing, and it can't move forward unless that happens. But the idea behind it is to end skepticism over Obama's birthplace while raising a little money for a government with a projected budget deficit exceeding \$800 million over the next two years.

Okla. official questions hiring pregnant woman

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A member of Oklahoma's Board of Education drew heated reaction Thursday after saying a newly hired administrator would be "worthless" as a legislative liaison if she took immediate maternity leave. Shortly after the board voted to hire Jessica Russell, who is due to give birth in April, former state Sen. Herb Rozell noted that she was pregnant and questioned whether she would be around for key days of the upcoming legislative session.

Bulgarian gets 2 years for stealing dead boy's ID

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A Bulgarian man was sentenced Thursday to two years and a day in prison for stealing the identity of an Ohio boy who was kidnapped and killed at age 3. Doitchin Krastev, who used the name for more than a decade while living as an American citizen, apologized to his own family for "falling off the face of the Earth" and to the family of Jason Robert Evers, whose name, birthday and Social Security number he assumed in 1996. Krastev had a private meeting with the child's relatives, who wanted to be sure he knew Jason Evers was a real human being, not a faceless name. The meeting helped humanize Krastev, the boy's sister, Amy Evers, said afterward. But she was unsure if the apology was genuine.

Asia

NATO: Afghanistan war won't end like Vietnam

BRUSSELS (AP)—The Afghan army will not collapse when international troops end their combat role, in the way that South Vietnam's did in the 1970s, NATO's top officer said Thursday.

Italian Adm. Giampaolo Di Paola said the international community intends to remain committed to Afghanistan after NATO forces hand over responsibility to the Afghan security forces in 2014.

"About 60 countries are engaged in the broader effort," Di Paola told reporters. "It is not just a bilateral or trilateral effort, as it was (in Vietnam)."

"The United Nations, the World Bank, many non-governmental organizations are all there," he said. "That is the fundamental difference."

The U.S.-led military coalition in Afghanistan numbers more than 140,000 troops—two-thirds of them Americans. The allies hope to have trained a total of 306,000 Afghan army

and police by the end of this year. They face an estimated 25,000 insurgents.

The Obama administration expects to start drawing down its forces in Afghanistan in July, when the first of the country's 34 provinces will be turned over to Afghan control. NATO's combat role will end in 2014, but some support units will remain in the country to help the Afghan security forces in case of need.

"The way the Afghan security forces are being trained is much better than in 1975," said Di Paola, who heads NATO's Military Committee—the alliance's highest military body.

On Thursday, during a conference of the chiefs of military staffs of NATO's 28 nations and their allies, he said "the overwhelming conclusion was that we are on the right track, that overall we are moving forward" toward the goal set for 2014.

In South Vietnam, U.S. and allied troops pulled out in 1973,

after almost a decade of war. Two years later, the South's army—which the Americans and French before them had trained for almost 30 years—collapsed within a matter of weeks during a communist offensive.

Some historians say the two wars are fundamentally similar. They have drawn parallels between Afghanistan's deeply flawed elections, and the failed effort in Vietnam to legitimize a military regime lacking broad popular support through an imposed presidential election in 1967.

In August 2009, President Barack Obama's then-envoy to Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke and the top U.S. and NATO commander there, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, contacted a key Vietnam historian to discuss what to do in Afghanistan.

The historian, Stanley Karnow, told them the main lesson of Vietnam was that "we shouldn't have been there in the first place."

Pakistan suffering famine-like child malnutrition

ISLAMABAD (AP)—One of the areas in Pakistan hit hardest by last year's massive floods is suffering child malnutrition rates similar to those seen in African famines, according to the United Nations.

The plight of children in southern Sindh province highlights the challenges Pakistan faces as it tries to recover from the floods, which first struck six months ago and eventually affected at least 18 million people and damaged or destroyed 1.7 million homes.

A survey conducted after the floods by the United Nations Children's Fund and the Sindh provincial government found that almost a quarter of the children in the province suffered from acute malnutrition.

"I haven't seen levels of malnutrition this bad since the worst famines in Ethiopia, Darfur and Chad," said UNICEF's deputy representative in Pakistan, Karen Allen, in a statement posted on the group's website Wednesday. "It's shocking, shockingly bad."

Malnutrition has long been

a problem in Pakistan. A 2002 survey found a national malnutrition rate of 13.2 percent, and the World Health Organization has said that up to 35 percent of children in Pakistan had stunted growth before the floods—a sign of chronic malnutrition.

But the floods, which inundated about one-fifth of the country—an area the size of the United Kingdom—have exacerbated the problem, said UNICEF. More than 7 million people were affected in Sindh alone and nearly 900,000 houses were damaged or destroyed.

"We're seeing a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions right now," said UNICEF's chief of communications in Pakistan, Kristen Elsby. "Millions of children are greatly at risk of malnutrition. Babies are dying and mothers are at risk of dying during childbirth."

Health care is only one of the areas where more help is needed for Pakistan to recover from the floods.

miles (three kilometers) away, and five rescue ships rushed to the scene.

Rare tiger gives birth to 3 cubs in Indonesia

JAMBI, Indonesia (AP)—A rare Sumatran tiger has given birth to three healthy cubs at a zoo in western Indonesia. The Taman Rimbo Zoo in Indonesia's Jambi province says the big cat also gave birth to one additional cub that died immediately. Sumatran tigers are on the brink of extinction because of rapid deforestation, poaching and clashes with people. The World Wildlife Fund says their numbers have

More than 500,000 people across Pakistan whose houses were destroyed will not receive support to rebuild unless the U.N. receives additional funding from the international community, said Chris Lom, a spokesman for the International Organization for Migration.

"In terms of human suffering ... it is the difference between struggling to survive without adequate shelter and allowing people to start rebuilding their homes and lives," said Lom during a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday.

The U.N. has received about 56 percent of the nearly \$2 billion that it requested from the international community to respond to the floods.

The World Food Program, which has been providing support to more than 5 million Pakistanis, has enough funding to continue through February but would then experience shortages unless it received more support, said WFP official Carl Paulsson.

dwindled to about 400, down from about 1,000 in the 1970s.

American man burns himself to death in India

JAIPUR, India (AP)—An American man has died after setting himself on fire in an abandoned Buddhist center in northwestern India, leaving a cryptic suicide note that blamed his death on "cruel incidents" in his homeland and India, police said Thursday. The charred body of Jeff Canabel, a 72-year-old Californian, was found by villagers at a meditation site in Rajasthan state, said Mohan Singh, a superintendent of police.

World

Egypt: Internet down, police counterterror unit up

CAIRO (AP)—Internet service in Egypt was disrupted and the government deployed an elite special operations force in Cairo on Friday, hours before an anticipated new wave of anti-government protests.

The developments were a sign that President Hosni Mubarak's regime was toughening its crackdown following the biggest protests in years against his nearly 30-year rule.

The counter-terror force, rarely seen on the streets, took up positions in strategic locations, including central Tahrir Square, site of the biggest demonstrations this week.

Facebook and Twitter have helped drive this week's protests. But by Thursday evening, those sites were disrupted, along with cell phone text messaging and BlackBerry Messenger services. Then the Internet went down.

Earlier, the grass-roots movement got a double boost—the return of Nobel Peace laureate Mohamed El-Baradei and the backing of the biggest opposition group, the Muslim Brotherhood.

After midnight, security forces arrested at least five Brotherhood leaders and five former Members of Parliament, according to the group's lawyer, Abdel-Moneim Abdel-Maksoud, and spokesman, Walid Shalaby. They said security forces had also taken a large number of Brotherhood members in a sweep in Cairo and elsewhere.

The real test for the protest movement will be whether Egypt's fragmented opposition can come together, with Friday's rallies expected to be some of the biggest so far.

Social networking sites were abuzz that the gatherings called after Friday prayers could attract huge numbers of



Mohamed ElBaradei
The 2005 Nobel Peace Prize winner and former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has returned to his native Egypt amid the social and political unrest.

Background and career
1942 Born in Cairo, Egypt

1962 Bachelor's degree in law, University of Cairo

1964 Permanent mission of Egypt at U.N., New York and Geneva

1974 Doctorate in international law, New York University

1974-78 Assistant to foreign minister of Egypt

1981-87 Adjunct professor of international law, New York University

U.N.'s nuclear watchdog
1984-1993 Senior member of IAEA's secretariat with several high-level policy positions

1993-1997 Assistant director general for external affairs

1997-2009 Director general of IAEA; an outspoken chief, he was awarded the Peace Prize for his efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons

© 2011 MCT
Source: IAEA, BBC, MCT Photo Service

protesters demanding the ouster of Mubarak. Millions gather at mosques across the city on Fridays, giving organizers a vast pool of people to tap into.

The 82-year-old Mubarak has not been seen in public or heard from since the protests began Tuesday with tens of thousands marching in Cairo and a string of other cities. While he may still have a chance to ride out this latest challenge, his choices are limited, and all are likely to lead to a loosening of his grip on power.

Violence escalated on Thursday at protests outside the capi-

tal. In the flashpoint city of Suez, along the strategic Suez Canal, protesters torched a fire station and looted weapons that they then turned on police. The Interior Ministry said in a statement that more than 90 police officers were injured in those clashes. There were no immediate figures on the number of injured protesters.

In the northern Sinai area of Sheik Zuweid, several hundred Bedouins and police exchanged gunfire, killing a 17-year-old. About 300 protesters surrounded a police station from rooftops of nearby buildings and fired two rocket-propelled grenades at it, damaging the walls.

Video of the shooting of the teenager, Mohamed Attef, was supplied to a local journalist and obtained by AP Television News. Attef crumpled to the ground after being shot on the street. He was alive as fellow protesters carried him away but later died.

The United States, Mubarak's main Western backer, has been publicly counseling reform and an end to the use of violence against protesters, signs the Egyptian leader may no longer be enjoying Washington's full backing.

In an interview broadcast live on YouTube, President Barack Obama said the anti-government protests filling the streets show the frustrations of Egypt's citizens. "It is very important that people have mechanisms in order to express their grievances," Obama said.

Noting that Mubarak has been "an ally of ours on a lot of critical issues," Obama added: "I've always said to him that making sure that they're moving forward on reform, political reform and economic reform, is absolutely critical to the long-term well-being of Egypt."

WORLD BRIEFS

Greece: Hunger strikers end campus occupation

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—More than 200 immigrants on hunger strike ended a five-day occupation of Athens University's Law School early Friday, following a tense standoff with police that underscored the country's ongoing illegal immigration crisis. The immigrants, on hunger strike since Tuesday, were joined by scores of Greek demonstrators and left the university building before marching across the city center to a private building rented by pro-migrant campaigners. The hunger strikers, most from north African countries, are demanding legalization—an appeal that was flatly rejected by the country's Socialist government, which is grappling with a growing illegal immigration problem.

Relative: Mexico violence worried slain missionary

MONTE ALTO, Texas (AP)—A Texas couple who were attacked at an illegal roadblock in one of Mexico's most violent areas had been delivering babies and doing missionary work in the country for three decades, and they had come to expect such confrontations, the couple's son said Thursday. Nancy Davis, 59, was shot in the head Wednesday while her husband, Sam, was trying to speed away from suspected drug cartel gunmen who may have wanted to steal their pickup truck, authorities said. Sam Davis frantically raced to the Pharr International Bridge border checkpoint with his wife bleeding beside him, but she was declared dead at a

McAllen hospital.

Colombia asks Israel to extradite mercenary

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia asked Israel on Thursday to extradite former Israeli army Lt. Col. Yair Klein, who was convicted by a Colombian court and sentenced in absentia to nearly 11 years in prison for training drug lords' assassins in the late 1980s. "The evidence (against Klein) is conclusive," Interior Minister German Vargas told a news conference, saying the formal request had been made in Tel Aviv by Colombia's embassy there. "For the Colombian government it is essential that this sentence is completed and that this citizen clarify his participation in the organization and training of these groups."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesian passenger ferry catches fire; 11 dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A crowded ferry caught fire in Indonesia early Friday, killing at least 11 people and sending panicked passengers jumping into the sea, officials said. Nearly 200 people were injured, some critically. Bambang Ervan, a spokesman for the Transportation Ministry, said the blaze broke out at around 3 a.m., just 40 minutes after the loaded down ship left Merak port on Java island for neighboring Sumatra. Billowing clouds of black smoke could be seen from the shore, less than two

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, January 29, 2011

PH economy seen to grow by 5.2 pct. in 2011

By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Dutch financial giant ING Bank expects the Philippine economy to grow by 5.2 percent in 2011, while inflation remains benign. This in turn will allow the central bank to defer a hike in key interest rates until late this year.

In a briefing Thursday, ING economist Joey Cuyegkeng said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would likely keep its monetary policy steady until the fourth quarter. Only then would the BSP consider any hike in key interest rates. In that event, the regulator may

probably raise the key rates by a sum of 50 basis points.

The economist said this “slightly delayed” policy adjustment would be due to looming inflation pressures from the supply side rather than demand—something that could not be addressed by tightening monetary policy.

Cuyegkeng said inflation fears would wane if the January rate were to show that consumer prices had increased at a manageable range of 3 to 3.2 percent.

The January inflation report will be released next week.

According to Singapore-based ING head of Asian research and chief economist Tim Condon, concerns that the BSP is “behind the curve” are overblown.

Those same concerns led to a sell-down of Philippine bonds in the last two weeks.

Outside of food prices, there is little pressure on core inflation across the region, Condon said.

“I think central banks will be very cautious in raising rates as there is no real inflation risk,” he said. “We will see food price spikes come and go, but core inflation will be steady.”

Also, Asian markets may take comfort in the fact that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries still has some excess production, alleviating fears that global oil prices will hit \$100 per barrel, Cuyegkeng said.

But the economist expressed his

concern that the recent flooding in the Visayas would affect local agricultural output—a development that could compel ING to downgrade its growth outlook for the Philippines this year.

Cuyegkeng said that a recovery in the agriculture sector had been factored in ING’s growth forecast of 5.2 percent this year—higher than the 4.7 percent growth trend announced during the term of former President Macapagal-Arroyo.

“But if flooding affects agriculture output, there’s downside risk,” he explained.

He said that this year, there will be no election spending to help perk up the economy.

In its forecast, ING has yet to price

in any upside that may come from infrastructure spending under the government’s public-private partnership program, Cuyegkeng added.

Domestic spending is also expected to be aided by remittances from overseas Filipinos, which Cuyegkeng said would sustain growth of around 6 percent this year.

On the exchange rate, Cuyegkeng said the peso would likely trade with a slight bearish bias but should recover afterward.

In the meantime, households funded by OFW remittances, exporters and business process outsourcing firms would benefit from a slightly weaker peso against the US dollar, he said.

Organization reps take part in leadership workshop at FWRC

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 40 representatives of various groups under the United Filipino Organization attended the leadership seminar held at the Filipino Workers Resource Center on Jan. 22.

“Member organizations were represented. The presentations were very inspiring and informative. It was defi-

nately a successful event,” UFO president Olive Yana told *Saipan Tribune*.

Leadership, according to Philippine Overseas Labor Representative Carmelina Velasquez, is a process where an individual influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal.

“In this definition, there are three important factors to be considered: influence, individuals composed of the leader and the follower, and common



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Lions Club International District 204 past district governor Goring Duenas addresses the participants of the UFO Leadership Seminar 2011 last Jan. 22.

goal,” noted Velasquez.

Velasquez said there are certain attributes necessary to become an effective leader, which includes having good character traits and the four factors of leadership.

These four factors, she said, are knowing one’s human nature, your job, the organization to which you belong,

and the ability to provide direction.

Goring Duenas, past district governor of Lions Club International District 204, noted in his speech that there can be no leaders without followers.

“The right to lead can only be gained if you are chosen by the followers,” he emphasized, adding that an effective leader is someone that people follow.

District governor Romy A. Angel stressed that service is an integral part of leadership, making it a difficult task to carry out.

“The price of leadership is sacrifice. When you accept the position, you should do it with commitment and dedication. Be an inspiration and role model to others,” he added.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Romy A. Angel, Lions Club International District 204 district governor, talks about leadership.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez discusses the principles of leadership during her presentation.

Philippine tourist arrivals hit all-time high

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—Tourist arrivals in the Philippines reached an all-time high of 3.52 million last year as increasingly affluent South Koreans and Chinese flocked to its tropical attractions, the government said Friday.

Visitor numbers in 2010 beat the previous record despite a bus hijacking

that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead in August and a series of travel alerts by Western nations in November warning of an imminent terror attack.

The number of tourists arriving in the Philippines rose 16.68 percent over the previous year, with East Asians, led by South Koreans, accounting for nearly

half the total, the tourism ministry said in a statement.

“The improved economic condition in these markets boosted their outbound traffic,” the statement said.

The final numbers topped the annual target of 3.3 million set by President Benigno Aquino III’s government,

which is seeking to boost tourist arrivals to six million by the time he leaves office in mid-2016.

Traffic from fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nations members should surge this year after passenger air services were liberalised within the 10-nation economic bloc in Novem-

ber last year, the ministry said.

The previous record for arrivals was set in 2008 with 3.14 million visitors.

The Philippines is targeting 3.7 million tourist arrivals this year, but this is still just a fraction of the tourist numbers enjoyed by Southeast Asian neighbors such as Thailand.

'P50-M sendoff gift for Reyes'

» Colonel explodes bombshell in Senate

By **CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A retired lieutenant colonel on Thursday made a surprise appearance at the Senate and disclosed how he and his ex-bosses allegedly amassed wealth, with a large portion of the loot taken from soldiers' salaries.

Seated on a wheelchair following a stroke, George Rabusa dropped a bombshell: that Angelo Reyes, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, received a sendoff gift ("pabaon") of "not less than" P50 million when he retired in 2001.

Rabusa said he personally delivered the cash to the "White House," Reyes' then quarters at Camp Aguinaldo, that year. He said he was accompanied by the then military comptroller, Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot.

"We had to convert [the money] to dollars because it was very bulky," Rabusa said during the Senate blue ribbon committee's initial hearing on the plea bargain between government prosecutors and ex-military comptroller Carlos Garcia.

On top of the purported "pabaon," Reyes, who later became defense secretary, allegedly received a monthly take of at least P5 million—or around P100 million in his 20 months as AFP chief of staff. Rabusa said he and Ligot made the monthly deliveries.

Rabusa said Reyes' office also received another P5 million monthly, but added that the amount was spent for office

needs and was not necessarily pocketed by Reyes.

He said the distribution of hefty amounts to top military officials was a "tradition" in the AFP. "It was there when we got there. We inherited it from those who came before us," he said.

He added that this tradition had also benefited two other AFP chiefs of staff, Diomedio Villanueva and Roy Cimatu, who allegedly each received around P10 million as a "start-up" fund.

"As soon as they assumed office, they already asked to be given," he claimed.

Can't remember

Reyes did not vehemently deny Rabusa's claims, saying only: "I cannot remember accepting" the P50-million "pabaon."

Ligot also claimed—to the senators' disbelief—that he could not remember accompanying Rabusa to deliver the money to Reyes.

"I cannot recall going there every month. We go there occasionally..." he said.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada threatened to have Ligot locked up in one of the Senate rooms until he told the truth. "I'm willing to wait until Monday until you remember," Estrada said.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile chided Ligot, saying incidents like the purported cash deliveries "are not forgettable." He told Ligot: "Don't press your luck."

It was Estrada who brought in Rabusa as a surprise witness in the blue ribbon committee's inquiry.

Rabusa admitted that he himself had pocketed amounts from military funds, but said he was getting only some P500,000. He was earlier accused of amassing some P50 million in assets.

"I had the discretion to handle cash and I cannot be a hypocrite [to say] that I wasn't getting anything from that," he said.

Conversion

Rabusa said that while serving under Garcia, he and his boss "converted" almost P1 billion from 2001 to 2002.

"Once the money was converted, he just told me to give it to him. I didn't know what happened next," he said.

By conversion, Rabusa meant the purported practice in the general military headquarters of pooling amounts for distribution to ranking officials, including recipients outside the AFP.

The money is taken mainly from the "provisions for command-directed activities" or PCDA fund, and "savings" from the personnel services budget of the military.

Reading from a list provided by Rabusa, Estrada identified other purported beneficiaries of the PCDA fund: the office of the vice chief of staff (P1.5 million plus P300,000), deputy chief of staff (P1.5 million), and the secretary of the joint staff (P1 million).

Also in the list were the senior military aide of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, military auditor, House legislative officer, retired generals, defense press corps,

surgeon general, chief nurse, janitors and gardeners.

Sources of funds

Rabusa said the PCDA fund was collected from the joint staff offices. He said these offices usually came up short and, thus, collections had to be made from the major services—the Army, Navy, and Air Force—and the Philippine Military Academy, Presidential Security Group and AFP Medical Center.

The personnel services budget also became a source of the purported loot when Rabusa et al. would collect allocations for a particular troop ceiling.

'Raw info'

Per Rabusa's explanation, this happened because the Department of Budget and Management released a fund for, say, 120,000 troops when the AFP actually had only 100,000. The salary for the 20,000 allegedly became the source of additional funds for military officials.

Rabusa's claims are "raw information" that "authorities" need to verify, according to Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta, the AFP spokesperson.

When asked by reporters in Camp Aguinaldo if he was surprised by Rabusa's allegations, Mabanta said: "Not really."

"It's up to him. Everyone can say what he [wants]. But these are raw information which I think needs to be further verified. It's really up to the authorities to find out its veracity and truthfulness."

When asked if the military

leadership would investigate past AFP chiefs of staff regarding the purported "send-off" money, Mabanta said they would wait for developments as a result of Rabusa's claims.

He said any abuse of military funds in the past should be the subject of "further investigation," in which the AFP was willing to cooperate.

He added that the AFP would "provide whatever is requested from us by competent authorities."

Mabanta also said that since the plunder case of Garcia came to light, the military leadership had adopted measures to make the AFP's financial situation more transparent. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

PH lawmaker calls for inquiry on proliferation of OFW drug mules

By **LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ**
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—

Alarmed by the surge in the number of overseas Filipino workers used in the illegal drug trade, a lawmaker on Thursday called on the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry into their proliferation.

"It is of utmost urgency for Congress to investigate these so-called drug mules who are unsuspectingly used by drug syndicates and the modus operandi of the same to forewarn the public especially those applying for jobs through the internet," Bayan Muna partylist Representative Neri Colmenares said in House Resolution No. 858.

He said OFWs are often duped into carrying items to their country of destination without knowing that they contain illegal drugs. In one instance, Colmenares said that a confessed drug mule admitted that she transported an electric fan but did not know that it contained cocaine.

According to records of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), there are at least 630 OFWs in various jails in different countries detained for being drug couriers

of high-profile international syndicates. This includes the 205 Filipinos imprisoned in China alone.

Of this figure, 75 OFWs in China are in death row, 35 have been sentenced to life imprisonment, 68 have fixed-term sentences, 27 have pending cases in court.

In China, drug trafficking of 50 grams or more of illegal drugs is punishable by 15 years in prison, life imprisonment or death while in Muslim countries, under the Shariah Law, drug trafficking is punishable by death.

"The proliferation of OFWs getting imprisoned in different countries on charges of trafficking of illegal drugs should be cause for alarm," Colmenares said.

PDEA said that most of the past drug couriers have come from impoverished background. The agency also said that international drug rings often use drug mules who are young professionals or office workers with presentable personalities and who are less likely to be suspected of the crime.

It said that 62 percent of the drug mules are female and 38 percent are male, recruited through the Internet and social networking sites.

10 plunge 25 floors to death at Manila work site

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A temporary elevator at a building construction site in the Philippine capital plunged 25 floors Thursday, killing 10 workers, officials said.

The workers were installing glass windows at a high-rise condominium when a platform elevator gave way, sending them tumbling down from the 32nd to the seventh floor, said Mayor Junjun Binay of Makati city, Manila's financial district.

Police and rescue officials said 10 workers were killed. One worker was in critical condition, but it was not immediately clear how many were on the platform, Binay said.

In a statement, building owner Eton Properties Philippines, Inc. said the workers were employees of its glass contractor and were on a break at the time of the accident. The workers took the platform to go up the 39-story building "instead of taking the stairs," the statement said.

"However, since the platform can only carry a few workers, the cable snapped," it said, adding that the company has



Rescuers help a victim from the 7th floor of a building under construction Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011 in Manila's financial district of Makati, Philippines.

ordered a review of the safety regulations of its subcontractors and construction management.

The company's website describes Eton as the global real estate arm of the Lucio Tan Group and a sister company of

the Philippine National Bank and Philippine Airlines.

Binay ordered construction at the site halted.

The Philippines, particularly Manila, has been experiencing a construction boom since

last year, driven by low interest rates, the large number of foreign remittances from 9 million Filipinos working abroad and the need for more office space to accommodate the country's growing outsourcing industry.

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'Little Italy' rises on a Philippine hillside

By MYNARDO MACARAIG
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MABINI, Batangas—On an isolated hillside in the Philippines, a tiny slice of Italy has risen from among the vegetable patches and coconut trees, the product of thousands of overseas workers.

Large stone houses—often with brand-new vehicles in their driveways—cover the district, even though the narrow streets can barely accommodate more than one car at a time.

This is a sharp contrast to the lifestyle in the 1980s, recalled district chairman Raymundo Magsino, 63.

"Back then, we depended on farming: vegetables, fruit and corn. We were the poorest district in the province. These were all just thatch huts," Magsino said, pointing to the pastel-colored houses that dot the hilly area.

This new wealth comes from the remittances of residents—including entire families—who have gone to Italy to work, turning a district of subsistence farmers into a relatively prosperous community in a generation.

About 6,300 people from the

town's total population of 47,000 have made the trip, said Aileen Constantino-Penas, program director of a non-government organization for migrant workers in Mabini.

The money sent home from Italy by Filipinos doing mostly domestic work and laboring has completely changed the face of Mabini town, located about 65 kilometers (40 miles) south of Manila.

Those who have left have brought touches of Italy back with them.

"The accents of their homes are no longer typical of Filipino homes," Constantino-Penas said.

Italian-style large terraces or wrap-around porches with marble balusters proliferate in Mabini, some with exteriors covered with artificial stone. Other houses look like mini-Pantheons, complete with Roman-style columns in front.

Traces of Italy can also be found inside the houses, even in the bathrooms. Bidets are common here even though they are unheard of elsewhere in the Philippines.

And when speaking among themselves, those from Italy sometimes use Italian words including the occa-

sional "Mama Mia" exclamation, said Constantino-Penas, whose relatives are also among the workers in Italy.

Going abroad to seek higher-paying work is nothing unusual in the Philippines: nine million people, or about 10 percent of the population, are currently laboring abroad.

They work as sailors, nurses, construction workers, musicians, maids, and in dozens of other professions in almost every country in the world.

But the people of Mabini have found Italy to be especially welcoming.

District chairman Magsino said some people made the journey to Italy as early as 1977, at a time when this meant sneaking into the country illegally.

Working in Italy really caught on in the 1980s as word spread of the opportunities there, luring even more Mabini residents.

"People who have relatives there talked to [prospective] Italian employers and told them that [their relatives] will work for you so they fixed the papers to bring them in," Magsino said.

Luciana Hernandez, 81, said

she was one of the pioneers of the exodus to Italy, having helped arrange for her daughter to go there to work in 1986, back when that meant sneaking into Italy from Austria or the former Yugoslavia.

"An agency took her by plane [to Europe]. Then by speedboat, then they crossed the mountains on foot, hiding all the time," she recalled.

Once her daughter was established in Italy, she was able to petition for the rest of her siblings to go there, where they also obtained jobs, said Hernandez.

Eventually all but one of Hernandez's 10 children went off to work in Italy. Most of them are still there and have taken their own children with them, she said.

"When they first left, I cried every time I thought of them. But I am used to it now and these days, they can call very easily with these new phones," she said.

Life as a foreign worker in Italy is easier than in other countries, say those who have worked there. While tales of abused Filipino maids proliferate in many countries, Filipinos in Italy enjoy legal protection and many of them get along well with their hosts, they say.

"Italy is a better place, even if you are just a domestic helper. They treat you well and even give you insurance for hospitalization," said Alona Solis, 39, who first went to Italy when she was 16 years old.

"They are not allowed to hurt you. You can complain about abuse, unlike some other countries."

Since she left for Italy in 1986, she has returned to the Philippines only twice: once in 2005 to get married and last December for a vacation that she is still enjoying. But she plans to go back to Italy soon.

"I am used to working there. My boss there already sees me as his child," she said.

Her husband also has a job in Italy

and they share an apartment with her two young children, said Solis, who can speak Italian.

Solis can earn as much as 1,000 euros a month (\$1,350) as a domestic helper if she works overtime, far more than she could ever get in the Philippines as a high-school dropout.

"If the educated people have trouble finding a job here, how much more the uneducated," she said.

Despite the wealth brought by the Italian ventures, officials concede that there are costs to having so many people from the community working outside the country.

Magsino, the district chairman, said family members left behind had become dependent on the remittances of their relatives.

"Many don't want to work in the farms anymore. They just play cards and go to cockfights," he lamented.

Constantino-Penas said her non-government organization, Atikha, had been working to teach the overseas workers how to manage their money and to make sure their relatives at home didn't suffer the ill-effects of separation.

"There is a social cost of migration. Children left behind don't want to study. Their mindset is they should go abroad and not study. We see a lot of drop-outs, most of them among overseas workers' children," she said.

Her organization is teaching children to stay in school, to save their money rather than spend it, while also helping their guardians learn how to budget and invest the money that is sent home from Italy.

Meanwhile, Mabini tourism officer Pacencia Casapao has struggled against the apathy lingering over the town in her effort to give it more touches of Italy.

"I've been asking for someone to come back and set up an Italian restaurant for tourists. But no one wants to do that," she said.

Money from overseas saves PH's agri sector, rural areas from slump

Editor's Note: The following is a contributed article from the Philippine-based Institute for Migration and Development Issues.

What has been filling the needs of whatever yields remain for agriculture-dependent rural Philippines comes from the sea. Agriculture officials just announced the lowest growth rate for the entire agriculture sector in nine years at 0.12 percent.

But there's a bigger story, says a policy brief by the nonprofit Institute for Migration and Development Issues: Filipinos in overseas countries—although not farmers—have been plowing back hard-earned incomes for families and even for their rural birthplaces, with remittances from overseas Filipinos continuing to rise, albeit slowly.

This does not come as a surprise, says the Institute's paper, titled *Rural Folk: Hard Up, So Some Leave*, written by Ma. Cristina Gregorio and Jeremiaah Opiniano. Two-thirds of overseas Filipinos—either contract workers, permanent residents or irregular migrants—come from rural Philippines.

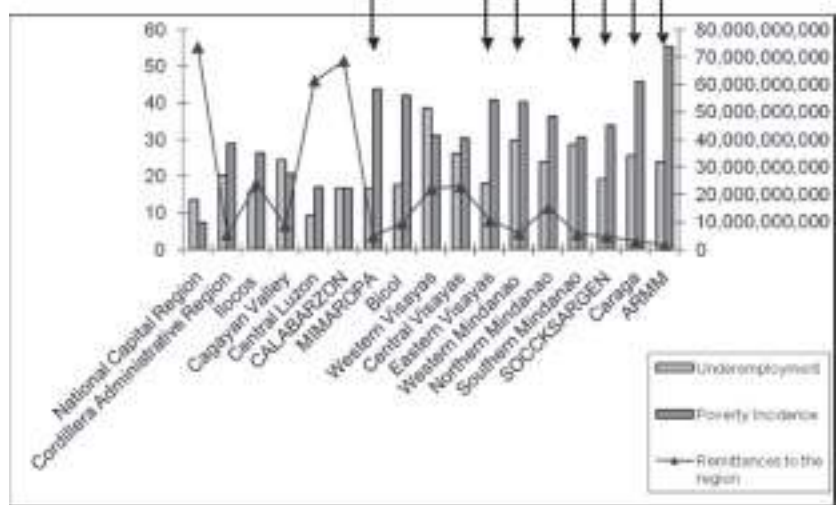
What seems to be happening is that overseas migration—a "new rural-ity," the authors say—"has made up for the Philippine rural areas' many shortcomings, even if not many residents from the countryside can afford to migrate overseas."

For example, using estimates on incomes by overseas migrant families from government's 2006 income and expenditures survey, 60 of 77 provinces had more overseas remittance incomes compared to the total incomes of provincial local governments (the latter coming from the Bureau of Local Government Finance).

The income gap, which IMDI refers to as "an income buffer for rural areas," is mind-boggling: P348.524 billion of migrant family incomes versus P50.482 billion for incomes by provincial LGUs in 2006.

Data from the Institute's policy brief also reveal:

If the Philippine rural region is farther from Metro Manila and has high levels of underemployment and poverty incidence, overseas remittances to these regions are lower (see arrows).



■ That the growth rate of the overseas exodus of permanent and temporary migrants is better than the agricultural sector's performance; and

■ That the P348.524 billion of incomes by migrant families in 2006 are at least twice more than all the loans handed out for agriculture and fishing (P93.228 billion);

However, the Institute wrote that since developed rural regions—especially those near Metro Manila—have more overseas migrants and more overseas remittances, overseas migration's benefits have largely eased out poorer regions.

Rural regions with high underemployment and poverty incidence rates got lower money from abroad, government data show (see graph below).

And since underemployment indicates low-paying, low quality jobs, the situation traps many rural folk in poverty and makes these people unable to migrate overseas.

This scenario, which many economic studies have proven, also widens the gap between the rich and the poor (or inequality).

Some economists, like University of the Philippines School of Economics dean Arsenio Balisacan, think that the

poverty reduction feature of agriculture "had reached a dead end."

At the same time, data from the *Rural Poverty Report 2011* of the International Fund for Agricultural Development revealed the decades-old slump of Philippine agriculture: agriculture's gross value-added as a percentage of the country's gross domestic product dropped from 23 percent in 1988 to 14.9 percent in 2008.

In a related IMDI policy paper, *Harvests Coming from the Sea*, the Institute wrote that while overseas migration can be a boon or a bane to agriculture, the links between the overseas exodus with farming and fishing "have yet to be fully explored."

Also, the development potential from the migration-agriculture linkages "(was) not yet maximized as much," the Institute wrote.

The Institute is now on its seventh year doing policy research, advocacy, data-banking, and development journalism on international migration and development issues in the Philippines. Comments may be forwarded to ofw_philanthropy@yahoo.com and at president@ofwphilanthropy.org.

No VIP treatment at NAIA for this VIP

By DJ YAP
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—There's no VIP treatment for this VIP.

She took her place at the end of a long queue at check-in, did the same at security check and through immigration, took off her shoes for inspection, had her bag scanned at the x-ray machine, and submitted herself for frisking for deadly weapons like any other passenger.

And this while airport authorities were going up to her one after the other, offering assistance. Let me carry your bag for you, Ma'am, or let me hold that for you. She waved them off with a smile. "No need to make a fuss," she said.

The passenger was Victoria Eliza "Viel" Aquino-Dee, President Benigno Aquino III's younger sister, dressed simply in a black and white blouse and slacks.

"That's how she has always traveled. She wants to be treated just like any ordinary passenger," said Bing Lina, manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's (NAIA) Terminal 1.

Aquino-Dee and her husband, Richard Dee, were taking a Thai Airways flight to Bangkok Wednesday. Lina offered to assist the couple through the stringent security procedures at the NAIA, but she declined graciously.

"The sisters are all like that. Even Ballys (Ma. Elena Aquino-Cruz) and Pinky (Aurora Corazon Aquino-Abelada)," Lina said, referring to Aquino-Dee's older sisters.

"They have bodyguards, but they just ask them to leave upon entering the airport, and they line up like everyone else," he said.

What about Kris, the flamboyant fourth daughter of former President Corazon Aquino?

"I have never had the occasion to assist her on her flights," he said.

P1M bounty for arrest of Edsa bus bombers

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno Aquino III has put up a P1 million bounty for the arrest of the per-

petrators of the January 25 bus bombing on Edsa.

Aquino said the amount, which would be taken from the Office of the President's intelligence fund, could be increased if necessary.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Maria Ressa: Life after Kapamilya

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Journalist Maria Ressa says life post-ABS-CBN is, to start with, “very relaxed.”

Ressa has just returned from a Boracay holiday with her family at the time of the interview. Then again, she’s not the type to remain idle.

After resigning as head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs late last year, she signed up with the International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research of the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore as its first author-in-residence.

New assignment

Ressa begins this new assignment in February and intends to finish a book in time for the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks. She also hopes the stint will help her “get a little perspective” as well.

She left the Kapamilya network after six years, she says, because it was

time. “As head of News you are not doing your own journalism,” she admits. “Last time I wrote a book, ‘Seeds of Terror,’ was seven years ago.”

In the next few months, aside from writing, she says, she will “do a lot of reading, thinking, exercising my brain and understanding the world.”

Her blog, www.mariaressa.com, is up and running, and she plans to team up with a “group of friends” and churn out “new ideas.”

She explains: “We are asking a lot of big questions: ‘How can we change journalism? How can we make it relevant to our societies? How can we use new media and technology?’”

These issues are pertinent in light of the changes television is going through, Ressa notes. “The ground is shifting beneath our feet and the market is changing. This year, we will see a major shift in television.”

Locally, it is a time of disruption, she says, citing two major reasons: The Internet and the entry of a third player, TV5, financed by business-

man Manny V. Pangilinan.

“We have 15 million television households, but 17 million Filipinos joined Facebook in 2009. That means, in one year, a 79 percent increase in the number of Filipinos on Facebook.”

As for the so-called third force, she says, “The entry of TV5 will certainly change the industry. There are more players, but the advertising pie remains the same.”

With digital TV and the sprouting of more [cable] channels, she sees the competition becoming fiercer. “So many choices...where will the eyeballs go? Advertisers will follow the eyeballs.”

And how will these “disruptions” impact news? Ressa gives best-case and worst-case scenarios. “Worst case: The three networks will fight so hard, it will be a race to the bottom.”

Balancing act

It’s always a tough balancing act, she says, but in the race for ratings supremacy, “agenda-setting stories may

get left behind,” as entertainment and crime reports get more air time.

“The nation’s future depends on an educated, informed public. Unfortunately, ratings pressures may push stories that don’t necessarily illuminate,” Ressa says.

Recently, TV5 took the counter-programming route and pit an entertainment program (“Willing Willie”) against “TV Patrol” and “24 Oras,” the primetime news shows of ABS-CBN and GMA 7, respectively.

The flip side of this scenario is that it may up the ante for journalists, says Ressa. “We should find better ways to tell difficult stories. The best-case scenario is that greater competition will lead to a better product.”

Which leads to the question: Is she joining TV5? She declines to discuss “specific offers and companies.”

She goes as far as saying, “Manny and I are friends. I respect his vision, which we have talked about for many years.”

More than the one-year non-com-



Maria Ressa, the former head of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs.

peting clause in her old ABS-CBN contract, what prevents her from joining another local network is a wish to avoid a conflict of interest situation. “I know too much about ABS-CBN,” Ressa says. “It would be hard to work against the team I helped build. It’s best to give it time. Besides, there’s a whole world of opportunities out there.”

DOLLYWOOD

Sharon speaks her mind

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

What better way to start the brand new year than by making peace with a dear friend from way back? I am overjoyed that, after a long time, Sharon Cuneta and I have let bygones be bygones.

I’d rather not elaborate. I already apologized to the Megastar on the air during my birthday episode on “Paparazzi” last September. But it was only during her launch as Marie France’s new endorser that we finally saw each other again.

I got misty-eyed when she singled me out and thanked me for coming.

After the program, hosted by Boy Abunda, I waited for Sha to come down the stage. As soon as she saw me, she hugged me really tight and said, “Nalungkot ako sa nangyari sa atin noon.”

There was no need for more words. Her warm smile said it all. Tampuhan serves as a renewal of ties.

For sure, my mom is so happy up above, now that Sha and I are friends again. I’d like to believe that it was more than a coincidence that I saw a bunch of sunflowers at the hotel lobby on my way to the ballroom where Sha’s event was held. My mom had a collection of sunflower stuff.

Maybe the bunch I saw that day was my mom’s way of making her presence felt. She loved Sha like her own child. My family and I are eternally grateful to Sha for being there for my mom especially during the critical last days of her life.

Sharon may have lost a lot of weight, but her heart remains super-sized as ever!

Quote, unquote

On her weight problem: “I got tired of being laughed at because of my weight. So I tried to laugh with people about myself. But every time I looked



Sharon Cuneta

in the mirror I wondered, ‘Why did I let myself go?’ I realized it was my duty as a celebrity to look good and I also owe it to myself to be healthy yet slimmer. They are paying me to lose weight. Mahiya naman ako pag di pa ako pumayat (laughs) ... I’ve lost more than 20 pounds and 24 inches all over. Soon enough I will have the curves in the right places.”

On her tampuhan with Aga Muhlach: “I appreciate it that Aga went out of his way to see me and we patched things up away from the cameras. In retrospect, I should not have said what I said at the Big Dome. It’s just that I feel so at home at the Araneta Coliseum because it’s where I grew up. I forgot there were thousands of people watching, the night that I said something against Aga.”

On her siding with Sarah Geronimo when Cristine Reyes waged a tweet war vs Sarah over Rayver Cruz: “Judy Ann got so worried for Sarah because she’s our bunso. Without Sarah knowing, I told Rayver, ‘Babae ang sa amin so sana pakayos naman ang gulo.’ I will always protect my friends no matter what.”

Biggest break

Aljur Abrenica gets his biggest break on GMA 7’s “Machete,” which premieres tonight after “Dwarfina.”

Here he dons the same bahag worn by Cesar Montano and Gardo Versoza in the early ‘90s.

In this modern version, “Machete” is brought to life by the fortuitous artwork of two beautiful women—sketcher Rosella (Bela Padilla) and sculptress Marla (Ryza Cenon). The statue to be used in the fantasy-drama was chiseled by no less than National Artist Napoleon Abueva’s team of expert sculptors led by his son, Lawin.

In the series, the wooden sculpture of Machete comes to life at nightfall. Memories of a past love come rushing through Machete’s mind, signaling the start of his unrelenting quest for his greatest love. But would love blossom between the lead stars, Aljur and Bela?

New ‘baby’

Birthday Boy Eric Quizon is proud of his new obra maestra, TV5’s “Babang Hampaslupa,” top-billed by Alex Gonzaga.

“It’s the first time Filipino-Chinese traditions are tackled on local TV,” he says.

“There are many sensitive aspects so we have to be very careful. I share directing chores with Joyce Bernal. I don’t want to think of it as who’s the first or second director. Joyce and I work as a team. I’m happy to see my former ka-love team Alice Dixon who’s in the cast. She’s been asking me questions about what it’s like to be a director. Seems she wants to try directing, too.”

What’s the real state of his dad Dolphy’s health? “People have been exaggerating about my dad’s health condition,” Eric explains. “He just has regular check-ups because of his age but nothing serious. He still wants to work. It serves as his vitamins. He will weaken if he stops working. Making people happy through his movies is what he lives for.”

Isn’t he his dad’s favorite son? “I don’t know for sure,” he says, laughing. “At last count, we are 17 kids. That’s the official tabulation. Dad consults me about important matters.”

How does he feel that Zsazsa Padilla is now in charge of RVQ Productions? “It’s fine with me,” he says. “Zsa and I are about the same age (he’s 44) so nagkakaintindihan kami and we both have the best interest of dad in mind. She makes my dad happy and takes good care of him so it’s only fitting that dad would entrust RVQ to her.”

Cesar’s song

Could it be true that Cesar Montano’s song number during Sharon Cuneta’s birthday concert won’t be aired on ABS-CBN’s Megastar birthday special because Buboy is still under contract with GMA 7? The Kapuso network should go easy on Buboy. His long-standing friendship with Sharon transcends the network war.

Richard’s new lady

Sam Pinto is elated to be one of Richard Gutierrez’s leading ladies in Captain Barbell. “Ang dami namin nag-audition,” she says. “I’m lucky I was chosen. I got star-struck the first time I met Chard. He made me feel at ease right away though.”

Who among the Kapuso stars are wooing her? “Believe it or not, wala,” she reveals. “I don’t know if they are scared of me or intimidated. Mas may nagte-text sa akin na Kapamilya stars.”

Her manager, Claire de la Fuente, says that Dingdong Dantes requested Sam to be part of the cast of his new show, “I Heart You Pare” but GMA opted to include her in Richard’s telefantasya.

“Dong and I are just on a hi-hello basis,” she says. “I don’t want to get in the way of his relationship with Marian Rivera. I know they are happy together.”

Renewed Friendship

Ruffa Gutierrez is relieved that she and Kris Aquino have made peace.

“Di naman talaga kami nag-away ni Kris,” says Ruffa. “We just didn’t get a chance to talk anymore after I left ‘The Buzz.’ Everything was just blown out of proportion. Nagulat ako when she walked into Opus [a club at Resorts World] with Ai Ai de las Alas

and Diether Ocampo. She lost weight. I wanted to pair off sana Diet with Miriam (Quiambao) who was with me kasi she was feeling down because of a guy. But it might cause friction between Kris and I since date niya si Diet that night.”

Does she think Kris was sincere in greeting her? “Of course naman!” Ruffa exclaims. “The first one I saw was Ai. We hugged each other like long lost sisters. If Kris didn’t wanna greet me, she could have left the moment she saw Ai and I make beso. I’m glad we had a chance encounter. Mabuti na yung ganun na ‘di naka-plano. Para ‘di pilit at awkward.”

So, does it signal the start of a renewed friendship with Kris? “Para akong nabunutan ng tinik,” she says. “Kris and I didn’t really get to hang out but we shared a lot of memories while working together. I look forward to building more memories with her if time would let us.”

No bitter rivals

Precious Lara Quigaman and Stella Araneta have also buried the hatchet. Madame Stella invited Precious to the screening of the Bb. Pilipinas candidates.

“It was just tampuhan between a mother and a daughter wanting to make a mark for their own selves,” Precious explains. “I wasn’t out to compete with Madame when my friends and I put up Miss Turismo Pilipina. We hugged and she said, ‘Welcome, it’s so nice to see you ... And you will be part of this.’”

“I was teary eyed ... I have been planning to make the first move, send her flowers since last month but I never got to do it because of my schedule. Then two nights before the Bb. Pilipinas prelim screening, I received a call from them inviting me to attend the screening. As if nothing happened.”

“As of now, we are still not sure if we will push through with Turismo Pilipina this year, although we want to. My partners and I are still looking for resources. I just feel that we have many beautiful women out there who deserve to be recognized.”

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Another hired gun

Moments after Marlon Recamata Dichaves killed environmentalist and radio anchor Gerry Ortega in Puerto Princesa last Monday, he was caught and detained by passing firemen, concerned citizens and a responding policeman. The firemen, on board a truck, heard the gunfire and then saw Dichaves run from the scene and throw a handgun into a trash can. Using a loudspeaker, the firemen pointed Dichaves out to pedestrians. In the chase, the policeman was able to grab Dichaves and detain him.

The killer confessed to the crime, alleging it was a contract hit for P150,000. The gun he used, too, was immediately recovered.

The circumstances of the killer's arrest make this an open-and-shut case. In other words, only the Ombudsman can manage to lose it.

That last sentence, unfortunately, is not a joke. Filipinos have been known to indulge a morbid sense of humor, but in fact we are deadly serious. Part of the reason why so many journalists, especially hard-hitting crusaders in the provinces, have been slain—142 since the end of the dictatorship in 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines—is that the justice system has failed to work as designed. Especially in the Arroyo years, when the number of journalist killings surged, the lack of visible progress in the many cases filed showed that the system could not serve as a deterrent. In fact, it can be argued that the ineffectuality of the system as a whole encouraged the enemies of free speech to resort, repeatedly, to violence.

We hear the phrase “culture of impunity” used again—that convenient shorthand (at least in the English language) for a society where the obviously guilty go unpunished. Thus, if powerful interests even in a progressive province like Palawan think they can get away with murder, then they think nothing of hiring contract killers like Dichaves of Taguig. How can we stop them?

The murder of Ortega marks the second time a journalist has been killed during the second Aquino presidency. We have no doubt that President Aquino will exhaust all efforts, not only to place those who masterminded the killing behind bars, but also to put an end to the killing spree.

But can he? It requires an enormous amount of work, including rededicating the country's security forces to the task of arresting those involved in previous slayings, of recommitting the prosecutors of the Department of Justice to the goal of filing airtight cases and securing irreversible convictions, above all of reinventing the government as an institution where the rules apply to high and low alike.

It seems possible, even probable, that Ortega, known as “Doc Gerry” to many, was killed because his passionate advocacy of anti-mining causes rubbed powerful politicians the wrong way. That is something that the police investigators and the public prosecutors must explore. Murder, like all politics, is inextricably local. But Ortega's death is also a warning to the new administration. The “culture of impunity” can be defeated only by the emergence of a completely new culture of total (not selective) accountability.

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Binondo roots of the ‘Tiger Mom’ debate

A debate rages in the US today that has made it to the cover of this week's *Time* magazine. It was triggered by a book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, which was excerpted last week in the *Wall Street Journal* under the heading “Why Chinese Mothers are Superior.” The WSJ article is said to have been read more than 1 million times and attracted 100,000 comments on Facebook.

The author is Amy Chua, law professor at Yale (married to a fellow Yale law professor as well). She wrote about her own Asian upbringing under strict but loving parents and how she has emulated their parenting with her own kids. What makes her American readers go berserk are her personal examples of extreme discipline that she has exacted on her two daughters, both of whom have grown up to be healthy and sound. The WSJ excerpt begins with the following: no sleepovers, no playdates, no acting in school plays, no complaining about not being in a school play, no TV or computer games, no choosing their own extracurricular activities, no grade less than an A, not being the No. 1 student in every subject except gym and drama, no musical instrument except piano or violin.

Three episodes of her “tough love” have provoked outrage. The first was when she forced her 7-year-old daughter to master the “Little White Donkey” on the piano for several hours into the night without bathroom or meal breaks. The second was when she called the older daughter “garbage” for disrespecting her—and Chua explains that her own father said the same thing to her when she was younger and she didn't feel diminished but rather challenged to do better instead. The third was when Chua rejected a handmade birthday card made by her daughters. She threw the card back at her daughter, saying (and here *Time* quotes her), “I deserve better than this. So I reject this.”

Amid the ensuing public fury, Chua explains that her book was not meant to be a parenting guidebook but a memoir of “how [she] was humbled by a thirteen-year old,” apparently her second daughter

who rebelled against her draconian discipline (and this, just based solely on the WSJ excerpt that I read, not the book itself).

But perhaps what was truly disturbing was not the fear about cruelty to children, but rather the fear that the West has nurtured their children too much that they grow up too soft and flabby to compete in the real world against, come to think of it, the über-competitive princelings of the dragon economies in Asia.

The Filipino reader might be interested in one factoid: Amy Chua's parents are both ethnic Chinese from the Philippines. Apparently, her father studied at the Mapua Institute of Technology and went to the US to study at their own MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and rose to become a highly acclaimed engineering professor at UC Berkeley. Amy herself would graduate with honors from Harvard College and make law review at the Harvard Law School. Her first book “World on Fire,” a winner of prestigious prizes, builds upon the experience of anti-Chinese discrimination in the Philippines. If the younger Chua idealizes the elder Chua's parenting, then it can be a parenting style not solely Chinese but possibly Filipino as well.

No wonder I found Amy Chua's practices familiar, though when I was growing up, it was my Dad who was strict, and Mom who was pusong mamon. I recently found my grade school report cards somewhere in my parents' home, and realized that if I wanted to find out how I did in a particular year, I didn't have to look at the grades. I just had to look at the parents' signatures at the back. If my Dad signed, it meant my grades were superb. But if my Mom signed ... not only did Dad refuse to sign, but it also meant that I broke into cold sweat before I showed it to him and that I got a marathon reprimand that left me feeling so guilty. I also recall that when I was 10 years old he would make me



Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

recite Raul Manglapus' “Land of Bondage, Land of the Free” during the clan's Christmas parties. It didn't occur to me then that that was a rather unusual way to spread the season's cheer.

Listen to how Chua compares the parenting styles that she has labeled Western vis-à-vis Chinese (to cover even non-Asian but immigrant families who push their kids to succeed):

“First, I've noticed that Western parents are extremely anxious about their children's self-esteem... Chinese parents aren't. They assume strength, not fragility, and as a result they behave very differently. For example, if a child comes home with an A-minus on a test, a Western parent will most likely praise the child. The Chinese mother will gasp in horror and ask what went wrong.”

“Second, Chinese parents believe that their kids owe them everything. The reason for this is a little unclear, but it's probably a combination of Confucian filial piety and the fact that the parents have sacrificed and done so much for their children.” In contrast, Chua says in the West, “Kids don't owe their parents anything. Their duty will be to their own kids.”

“Third, Chinese parents believe that they know what is best for their children and therefore override all of their children's own desires and preferences.”

There is something lost in the online commentary. It is as if the debate is only about how hard or how gently to push kids to succeed. I think we must reflect as well on what it means to succeed and be happy. Sure, awards and medals give parents the ammunition for bragging rights, but these are marks of achievement bestowed by others—teachers, boards of judges, referees—upon the child, telling him what's worth bragging about. But why hostage your happiness to other people's judgment when you can seize the power to judge it for yourself?

Black as the ‘Virgen de la Regla’

When Miguel Lopez de Legazpi took possession of Cebu for the Spanish crown in 1565, he was moved by the discovery of the image of the Santo Niño in one of the abandoned houses. Since then the image was believed to have been the same Santo Niño given to Humabon's queen after she was baptized and renamed Juana in 1521. Those 44 years were undocumented because the people of Cebu left no written records except for oral tradition that asserts the image pre-dated Magellan.

In his report, Legazpi declared, “God has waited in this same place,” and narrated:

“On the day when we entered this village one of the soldiers went into a large and well-built house of an Indian, where he found an image of the Child Jesus (whose most holy name I pray may be universally worshipped). This was kept in its cradle, all gilded, just as it was brought from España; and only the little cross which is generally placed upon the globe in his hand was lacking. This image was well kept in that house, and many flowers were found before it, no one knows for what object or purpose. The soldier bowed before it with all reverence and wonder, and brought the image to the place where the other soldiers were. I pray the holy name of this image that we have found here to help us and to grant us victory in order that these lost people who are ignorant of the precious and rich treasure which was in their possession may come to a knowledge of him.”

Another document from 1565 says many houses were burned down when the Cebuanos resisted the arrival of the Spaniards. It is not known which group started the blaze. When Spanish soldiers took over unburned houses, the document says: “There was found a marvelous thing, namely a child Jesus like those of Flanders, in its little pine cradle and its little loose shirt, such as come from those parts, and a little velvet hat, like those of Flanders—and all so well preserved that only the little cross, which

is generally upon the globe that he holds in his hands was missing. Meanwhile, as was right, the general [Legazpi] had his prize, and when he saw it, he fell on his knees, receiving it with great devotion. He took it in his hands and kissed its feet; and raising his eyes to heaven, he said: ‘Lord thou art powerful to punish the offenses, committed on this island against thy majesty, and to found herein thy house, and holy Church, where thy most glorious

name shall be praised and magnified. I supplicate thee that thou enlighten and guide me, so that all that we do here may be to thy glory and honor, and the exaltation of thy holy Catholic faith.’ And he ordered that this sacred image be placed with all reverence in the first church that should be founded, and that the church be called [Santisimo] Nombre de Jesus. It gave great happiness and inspiration to all to see such an auspicious beginning, for of a truth it seemed a work of God to have preserved so completely this image among infidels for such a long time; and an auspicious augury in the part where the settlement was to be made.”

April 28, 1565 was the day set aside for the feast of the Santo Niño de Cebu, until it was moved to the third Sunday of January because Holy Week often fell in or around April and got in the way of merrymaking. The house where the image was found gave way to a monastery and church that grew into the Minor Basilica of the Santo Niño de Cebu we have today.

Juan de Camuz was the man who found the Santo Niño. Esteban Rodriguez is mentioned as the first person Camuz showed the image to before it was formally presented to Legazpi.

These documents, however, leave us with a



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

handful of unanswered questions about the Santo Niño image: Was this the same image that Magellan brought with him to the archipelago he called Islas de San Lazaro in 1521? Could it have been another Santo Niño image brought by other expeditions or traders in the 44 years between the arrival of Magellan and Legazpi, the original one having been lost or damaged? Did Humabon's queen replace her idols with the Santo Niño? Was it venerated as the

Santo Niño or were the flowers and other offerings found around it part of our pre-Spanish religion? Was the place where the Santo Niño was found a sambahan (place of worship) or a private home? If the Santo Niño was revered as an anito, why did the natives leave it behind when they ran away? It was portable and easy to carry.

That the Santo Niño was preferred as a cute baby doll over a crude local anito is a no-brainer based on Pigafetta's description of idols they encountered. He said these idols were “made of wood, they are concave or hollowed out behind, they have arms and legs spread out, and the feet turned upwards; they have a large face, with four very large teeth like those of a wild boar, and they are all painted.”

What was the complexion of the Santo Niño then? Was it fair-skinned or black, as documented in many prewar photographs? There should be no problem since other venerated images like the Nazareno de Quiapo and the Virgin of Antipolo are black. So is the Virgen de la Regla (Virgin of the Rule) of Cebu that would be better known if not for its Spanish name understood in a Filipino way. Why was the black skin peeled to make the Santo Niño “white”? What does veneration of the Santo Niño or the rowdy Sinulog express about ourselves?

Samu't Sari



SHARK ADVOCATES

Seated from left, *Sharkwater* director Rob Stewart, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan are joined by Commonwealth lawmakers and supporters of the shark fin ban bill that Fitial signed into law Thursday in the conference room of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Rob Stewart discusses his documentary *Sharkwater* with the audience at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Monday night.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Canadian photographer and filmmaker Rob Stewart talks to Ron Smith and Smith's wife after a presentation at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center on Monday.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Sharkwater director Rob Stewart gestures as he addresses the regular meeting of the Saipan Rotary Club Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Looking on is Rotary president Glen Perez.



CLARISSA DAVID

OPEN HOUSE

Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt, legal counsel Kate Fuller, and zoning planner Therese Ogumoro listen to Jesus L. Castro of Capitol Hill make a comment on the proposed amendments on the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 during a public open house last Jan. 26 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Director and filmmaker Rob Stewart is flanked by Rep. Diego Benavente and wife Vicky after Stewart's presentation at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center on Jan. 24. Benavente authored House Bill 17-94 that seeks to ban shark finning in the Commonwealth.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



A very happy birthday goes out to a wonderful, wife, mother, sister, and friend, Debbie Reyes Salazar, who celebrates her birthday today, Jan. 29! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Much love from your husband Gani, your children, and all your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An advanced happy birthday shoutout going to the fabulous and glamorous Joey Sison, who will be celebrating her birthday on Sunday, Jan. 30! Hoping you have a gloriously fantastic day and be treated like the Queen that you are and may you be blessed with more birthdays to come! Hoping all your birthday dreams and wishes come true! Much love coming from all your family and friends!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A happy birthday greeting going out to the apple of our eye, Aidin Benavente Tagabuel "Junie Bug," who will be celebrating her 2nd birthday on Sunday, Jan. 30! Much hugs, love, and kisses from your Mommy and Daddy, Grandma and Grandpa, Nino Charisma, and Dottie Girl!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advance happy birthday to Jaymark de Guzman! Have a great one and wishing you many more blessing to come! Greetings come from your big boss, Tisha.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CLARISSA V. DAVID

NEW MEMBER

Saipan Rotary Club president Glen Perez, right, officially welcomes new member Ron Fusco, center, during a brief induction ceremony Tuesday noon at Hyatt Regency Saipan. At left is Rotarian David Sablan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Young Style

50 ways to spend a snow day

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS



A snowman sits on a park bench at Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

NEW YORK (AP)—Another day, another blizzard. Here are 50 ways to spend a snow day.

Make an abominable snowman. It's like a regular snowman, but less friendly to passers-by.

Practice multiplication and script with your kids. That'll put them in a REALLY good mood. For older kids, break out the practice tests.

Delete all of the expletive-laden "music" from your teenager's Napster playlist on the family computer, while she's not looking.

Make snow ice cream, slushies or 'tinis. Harvest icicles for the latter.

Put on your fanciest evening dress and jewelry, grab your cocktail and pretend you're in an old movie. That sounds a lot better than, "Sit around your apartment and get wasted."

Fill squirt bottles with water and food coloring and make art on the snow. Let your dog help out.

Trudge around town for a store that hasn't sold out on sleds.

Wash the floors by hand. Or use a toothbrush.

Do that mending and ironing you've been putting off since 2004.

Groom the dog. Then suck all the fur off your couch.

Make freeze-ahead dinners. The ones you wish you had right now.

Go rooftop lugging.

Get kids the Lil' Capt. Robert Scott Antarctic Expedition playset.

Shovel through piles of climate change theories.

Shred your pile of old documents. Better yet, multitask. Use them to light up the fireplace.

Change the batteries in the smoke detectors, since you forgot during Fall Back.

Find all the lids to the Tupperware.

Play Monopoly with the rules that make the game go slower.

Go through your junk drawer. Do not be afraid.

Clean your silverware and jewelry. Alternatively, pine for silverware and jewelry worth cleaning.

Sort mementos into keep and toss piles. Spend time poring over the keepers—after all, that's why you're keeping them.

Make a master calendar for gift-giving dates. Shop ahead online. Or for yourself. Pretend there are sales.

Invite over neighbors you rarely see for a potluck dinner.

Make a list of all the things you love about your valentine for a card or scrapbook. Make stuff up if you have to.

Actually use those cross-country skis, or skates or showshoes you were



This Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011 photo shows skiers Karma Lama, left, and Madeline Dale as they take advantage of the snow fall in Riverside Park on New York's Upper West Side.

Bill would let 'sexting' NJ teens avoid charges

By ANGELA DELLI SANTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey teenagers caught texting or posting sexually explicit photos online could avoid prosecution under a measure that would give first-time offenders the chance to complete a diversionary program.

State Assemblywoman Pam Lampitt of Camden, who is sponsoring the bill, said it's important to teach teens the potential consequences of their actions without saddling them with a permanent criminal record.

"We need to create a path that places education and forgiveness before arrest and prosecution," said Lampitt, a Democrat. "Young people—especially teen girls—need to understand that sending inappropriate pictures is not only potentially illegal, but can leave an indelible mark on them socially and educationally."

The bill won unanimous support from both parties in a committee and is headed for the Assembly floor. A version must also pass the Senate for it to become law.

The measure targets "sexting," the practice of sending sexually explicit or

suggestive photos by cell phone, as well as e-mailing similar images and posting them online. It's a nationwide problem that has confounded parents, school administrators and law enforcers.

Prosecutors in several states including Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Wisconsin have tried to stop it by charging teens who send and receive the pictures. Charges include possession and distribution of child pornography. Lawmakers in New Jersey agreed that criminal prosecutions are better avoided when possible.

"There are certain aspects (of life) in which the criminal law should not be involved, and this is one of them," said Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll, a Republican from Morristown.

The legislation was initially introduced last summer, months after a 14-year-old New Jersey girl allegedly posted nude pictures of herself on MySpace and was arrested. She was charged with child pornography and distribution of child porn but eventually received probation and was ordered to undergo counseling.

A 2008 survey by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy showed that

roughly one in five teens—including 11 percent of girls ages 13 to 16—have sent a nude or seminude picture or video of themselves to friends or posted one on a website.

County prosecutors would get to decide who participates in the diversionary program based on certain guidelines spelled out in the bill. For example, the program would be open only to those who had no juvenile record and teens who didn't realize the potential consequences of their actions.

The legislation requires the attorney general's office to create a program to teach teens about the criminal penalties and social consequences of sending or receiving nude or seminude images through cell phones or computers. The educational components would include lessons on how the uniqueness of the Internet can produce long-term and unforeseen consequences after photographs are posted and the connection between cyber-bullying and the posting of sexual images.

Paul Lorient, a spokesman for the state attorney general, said his office hasn't been consulted but that it would review the bill and make recommendations.

always planning to try out after a big snow. C'mon, you can do it!

Scan old photos and make a photo book. Then force the kids to look at pictures of their parents when they were little.

Do your taxes! April 15 only feels far off.

Chug a shot and break open your financial portfolio.

Order seeds and plants for your spring garden. Yes, spring will come eventually.

Update your resume. Hey, it's better than doing it at work and leaving it in the copying machine.

Go through clothes in drawers and closet. Try on and toss.

Upload your CDs, finally. Now, this may be difficult: Toss the CDs and the CD player.

Take out all the beach chairs, umbrellas and boogie boards and make a beach day in the snow.

Google yourself.

Collect all the pennies from the corners of the house, coat pockets, sofa cushions, jeans in the laundry. Maybe you'll have enough for a cup of coffee at Starbucks. Then again, maybe not.

Write a letter. You know the kind, with pen and paper.

Make snowflakes out of paper. Tape them to your windows to block out the white piles outside.

Teach haiku—five, seven, five—and make a book of illustrated snow haiku.

Create air fare alerts for deals to your dream destinations.

Play this fun game with your kids: Let's Clean the Bathroom!

You know that neighbor who won't stop blasting music? That's where your shoveled snow goes.

Play family-friendly spin the bottle with your chore list. Hope it doesn't point to you when it's time to clean toilets.

Mani-pedi, scrub or mask, deep condition. You choose the body parts.

Bubble bath. Turn down the lights, light a candle and pretend you're in a spa. Doesn't do it for you? It's not completely impossible that a real one is open.

Experiment all day on devising the ultimate chocolate chip cookie. Tasting mandatory.

Begin your memoirs.

Take pictures of all your belongings to inventory for insurance. Now do a written inventory.

Sleep. If that doesn't work, make some nookie!

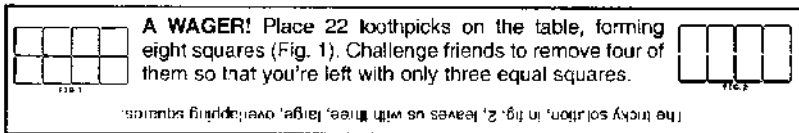
Send hate mail to your friends and relatives in warm-weather places. Or block them on Facebook.

Look at Florida real estate online, so you never have to read this again.



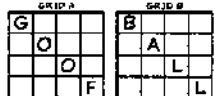
A CEREAL CHALLENGE! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answers: 1. Grub-burg, 2. Crab-cake, 3. Pool-pole, 4. Leaf-leaf.



DOESN'T READ "JUNIOR WHIRL"! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

1. Slang for food.
2. To cover over.
3. A table game.
4. What a golfball does.



Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER! You have three minutes to unlock the secrets of Word Power! Starting with the given word WHISKERED, at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters, at each level, spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with WHISKERED.

1. Had a beard.
2. Made a loud, frantic call.
3. Avoided doing his duty.
4. He bet everything he had on red.
5. He was irritated when he lost.
6. Type of dreadful warning.
7. Anger, wrath.
8. In reference to.
9. Compass direction (abbr.)

Illustrated by David Coulson

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was beloved British mystery novelist and playwright Agatha Christie who made the following sage observation: "It is a curious thought, but it is only when you see people looking ridiculous that you realize just how much you love them."

■ Some toads can live for up to a year without eating a single thing.

■ Those who study such things say that not all your fingernails grow at the same rate. It seems the nail on your middle finger is a bit of an over-achiever—it grows faster than the nails on your other fingers.

■ Lawmakers in Corpus Christi, Texas, evidently once found home alligator farming to be enough of a problem that they felt compelled to pass a law making it illegal to raise the crocodilians in a home.

■ If you buy a postage stamp in Israel, rest assured that the glue you'll be licking on said stamp is kosher.

■ If you (like me) are a fan of Krispy Kreme's donuts, you may be interested to learn that the pastries have been made with dough from the same secret recipe since 1937.

■ During the first couple of years of life, dolphins gain an average of five pounds every month.

■ Despite the fact that famed magician Harry Houdini exposed a number of mediums and psychics as frauds, Sherlock Holmes novelist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle persisted in believing that Houdini himself was a medium.

■ The subcontinent of India is steadily moving closer to the continent of Asia—by about 2 inches every year.

Thought for the Day: "Give all power to the many, and they will oppress the few. Give all power to the few, and they will oppress the many. Both therefore ought to have power, that each may defend itself against the other."—Alexander Hamilton

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MARTIN MAGIC MAZE • LUTHER KING

H O M J H F C A Y W U R P C N
L J H F D B Z X V I R Q O I M
K T I S E H C R A M L E S V H
F T S I T P A B D B Z Y S I W
V T R I Q T N A M Y G R E L C
O N O N V I O L E N C E H R O
N L O K I I P C A A N D C I R
H F D B C A T Z Y X W A E G E
V U S R E C L C S O Q E E H T
O N M H O L I D A Y B L P T T
K J I D E T A N I S S A S S A

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Activist	Civil rights	Leader	SLC
Assassinated	Clergyman	Marches	Selma
Baptist	Coretta	NAACP	Speeches
Boycotts	Holiday	Nonviolence	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

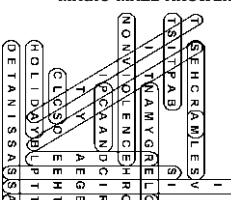
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		17
÷		-		+	
	+		+		17
×		×		×	
	-		×		6
14		15		24	

1 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



MARTIN LUTHER KING

GO FIGURE ANSWER

	14	15	24	
7	5	×	3	6
×	×	×	×	×
17	7	+	6	+
×	+	×	-	+
17	1	×	6	+

Shelters need your help

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I recently read reports of some shelters that rescue pets having to suspend new admissions because they can't afford to take any more. Is there any way to help them? I don't have much money.—Agnes in Indianapolis

DEAR AGNES: The number of rescued and abandoned pets filling up shelters seems to be climbing all the time. Of course, these tough economic times don't help matters, as many pet owners struggle to keep their homes.

Even in better times, most shelters need help. Monetary donations can make a big impact, but there are other ways to help if your spare cash is limited.

If you have extra time during the week, consider volunteering at a local shelter. Most area shelters have websites with information on volunteering, positions they need volunteers for, whether they offer any training, and how many days a week that position requires. Volunteering for even a couple of hours a week can save shelters money on staffing costs and free up full-time staff for more complex tasks like health care.

Another way to help is to donate food or pet-related items. Again, call the shelter or check its website to see what



is needed. If money to purchase food is tight, consider rallying your friends or neighbors to collect items that the shelter needs, and make a group donation.

Local shelters are providing a valuable service by caring for animals in transition—hopefully, a transition to a new family. Even a small contribution can help improve conditions for shelter animals and keep shelter services running.

■ ■ ■

Have a question or tip for fellow pet owners? Visit www.pawscorner.com, e-mail ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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S'mores indoors

For those of us who could use an unexpected surprise to chase away the winter doldrums, here's an idea that's hard to beat. No, it's not moving to a sunny beach somewhere far away. It's making mouthwatering s'mores—indoors! Sound impossible? It's not! Just swap out a classic campfire for your microwave, then grab the ingredients, and you'll have a finger-licking-good snack for everyone in the family in seconds.

Here's how to put smiles on everyone's faces in three easy steps:

1. On a small saucer, place a piece of a Hershey's chocolate bar on top of one half of a graham cracker. Add one large marshmallow, or several mini marshmallows.

2. Cook in your microwave on high for about 10-15 seconds, or until marshmallows puff and grow.

3. An adult should remove the plate from the microwave, top with the other cracker half and gently press down on the gooey marshmallow. Let cool a bit so the snack isn't too hot.

Make several and serve with big glasses of milk. For extra fun, gather everyone around in a circle on sleeping bags, wrap yourselves in blankets, sing your favorite camp songs and tell stories as you savor your treat.

Note: If you don't have a microwave, a toaster oven works fine, too. Cook the layered cracker, chocolate and marshmallow on the tray at 350 F until the marshmallow begins to brown. Remove and top with the other cracker half. Six s'mores fit on most trays.

Extra ideas: I've tweaked the basic recipe with a few variations kids like.

■ Substitute a Peppermint Patty or good chocolate syrup drizzled over the marshmallow for the chocolate bar.

■ For a surprise taste, spread a thin layer of peanut butter on one of the graham crackers before you add the other ingredients.



■ Add a banana slice.
■ For a s'more without the microwave, let preschoolers spread marshmallow cream and chocolate frosting on a graham cracker.

■ For a creative hostess gift, take along prepackaged s'mores. Wrap up fully assembled s'mores in neat little packages using waxed paper. Tie together with string and arrange in a tissue-filled container. Or, fill a gift bag with a box of graham crackers, a bag of marshmallows and a few chocolate bars for a simple kit.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Sean Connery immortalized with Estonian bust

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—He's been honored with an Oscar and British knighthood. As of Thursday, Sean Connery can count a bronze sculpture in the Estonian capital among his tributes.

The bust of Scotland's most famous actor was unveiled by British Ambassador Peter Carter outside Tallinn's Scottish Club, whose members include Estonians enamored with Scotland and a handful of expatriate Scots.

"Sir Sean Connery is, without a doubt, an icon," Carter told dozens of invited guests. "He is variously known as James Bond or the sexiest man of the century. He's a great British actor, a great Scot actor and a great symbol for Scotland."

The Scottish Club, which started as a whiskey sampling society



British Ambassador Peter Carter unveils a bronze bust of Oscar-winning actor Sean Connery, a prominent Scottish nationalist, at the Scottish Club in Tallin, Estonia, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

in the early 1990s, got the idea of honoring "Scots who have made a difference" a few years back, said president Mart Haamer. It already has a bust of 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns.

Haamer read a brief statement from the 80-year-old actor, who won an Academy Award for a supporting role in "The Untouchables."

"One cannot help but be flattered by the Scottish Club's gesture. My best wishes to the members of the club and to all the people who made this possible," the statement said.

A vocal supporter of the pro-independence Scottish Nation-

al Party, Connery lives in the Bahamas and has said he will not live in Scotland again until it gains independence from the United Kingdom.

However, Carter noted that "the fact that he has accepted knighthood, suggests that he is also a great supporter of the queen."

Connery was knighted in 2000.

The euro10,000 (\$14,000) bust by Estonian sculptor Tiit Kirsipuu was financed through private donations and depicts a bearded Connery at a mature age.

"I think the older he gets, the more charming he becomes," Kirsipuu said.

Blunt revels in upbeat optimism of new album

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—James Blunt prefers to think of his enduring first hit, "You're Beautiful," as a blessing, not a curse.

True, none of his songs have attained the massive success that "You're Beautiful" did when it hit the No. 1 spot five years ago in the United States and beyond. But Blunt, 33, is happy to have that song on his musical resume, so long as people understand there is a lot more to his achievements.

"I hope people know it's just a commercial for an album, because every musician makes something much more important than the commercial for the album," said Blunt. "If you're a fan of music and you go and listen to the album ... find really which is the hidden gem amongst them."

Blunt is hopeful people will take a close listen to his new CD, "Some Kind of Trouble," the third for the former British Army man. He calls the album, which includes the first single, "Stay the Night," his most upbeat.



In this Jan. 7, 2011 file photo, recording artist James Blunt poses for a portrait in New York.

The Associated Press: A lot of people think you disappeared in the last few years.

Blunt: I haven't been too lazy since then, I promise. I went on the road for two years, doing a world tour, and I ended up in the weirdest and the most wonderful places. ... Then after that, I went into the studio and I was locked into the studio for 12 months, and the result is this album, "Some Kind of Trouble."

AP: Did you enter the studio

looking for a particular sound?

Blunt: I knew what I didn't want to do is record or write the same kind of album that I'd done before, because that wouldn't be fulfilling. So instead, I hung out for a little bit with my mates, I got some new inspiration just from some everyday experiences.

AP: Does it reflect a different place in where you are in life?

Blunt: A lot of the reason why this album is more upbeat is because I learnt on the electric guitar, and then I joined the Army. ... It was just a hassle carrying around an electric and an amplifier. There was nowhere in my tank to plug in my amplifier, nowhere in the bush that I was hiding in to plug in my amplifier, so an acoustic guitar was just more practical. The problem with that then is that I just sort of wrote quite melancholic songs, and although that's cool for a while, it doesn't reflect me totally. It's been really nice now to find a socket to be able to plug in an amplifier and be able to play songs on the instrument that I first learned on.

AP: Do you think the upbeat songs will surprise people?

Blunt: Yeah, I'm definitely known for a couple of sad, miserable songs. "You're Beautiful" is my most famous one here in the States, and "Goodbye My Lover," and both of them aren't the happiest of tunes. So I think people will hopefully enjoy this "Stay the Night." The first single is really upbeat and optimistic, and it's fun for me to play live to.

AP: Is that the feel for the album?

Blunt: It's here and now but it has the kind of blind optimism of the '80s when as a race of humans, we believed we could get together and do anything, and maybe in the same ways of my own teenage years, where you kind of felt life was for living.

AP: Do you think that optimism is lacking now?

Blunt: Well, you know I'm English, and the English are pretty good at being cynical about life. I think you as Americans have a great quality of being quite positive, and for me I've enjoyed having that sense of optimism on this album.

Borgnine laughs all the way to the SAG Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For Ernest Borgnine, life is a laughing matter.

The veteran actor of screen favorites such as "Marty," "McHale's Navy," "The Poseidon Adventure" and "From Here to Eternity" seems to punctuate every story with at least a little chuckle, and more often than not, a long and loud laugh.

Borgnine was in his Hollywood Hills home recently, recalling a call from Screen Actors Guild President Ken Howard, who told him that he

would receive the group's lifetime achievement award, to be presented Sunday at the SAG Awards ceremony.

"He (Howard) said, 'We've nominated you. Would you accept the fact that you are to be the winner of the Screen Actors Guild Award?'" Borgnine said. "And I said, 'But am I worth it? Really. It comes down to that. What have I done, really? But, hey! I'm not going to turn it down.'"

Then he laughed.

Borgnine was career military, well on his way to a Navy pen-

sion when he came home after World War II.

"I knew one thing," Borgnine said, "I didn't want to go to work in a factory."

His mother suggested that he go into acting.

"She said, 'You always like getting in front of people and making a fool of yourself; why don't you give it a try?'" he recalled. "I was sitting at the kitchen table, and I saw this light. No kidding. It sounds crazy. And 10 years later, I had Grace Kelly handing me an Academy Award."

Borgnine laughs, as if still in disbelief, after all these years.

After Broadway success, he moved to Los Angeles and found a breakout role in "From Here to Eternity" (1953). Borgnine then landed the lead as a lonely butcher in 1955's "Marty," for which he earned the best-actor Oscar. That made him a star, and he's been working steadily ever since, with memorable roles in the film and TV series "McHale's Navy," "The Wild Bunch" and "The Poseidon Adventure."

Chopin's hallucinations possibly due to epilepsy

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Frederic Chopin's habit of drifting off and hallucinating at the piano may have been caused by epilepsy, according to a new study of the 19th-century romantic composer.

Chopin's tendency to lapse out of consciousness was interpreted by his partner George Sand, pseudonym of the French novelist Aurore Dudevant, as "the manifestation of a genius full of sentiment and expression." But in the analysis published this week, Spanish doctors say Chopin's hallucinations may have been due to a temporal lobe epilepsy rather than the result of any sweeping artistic tendencies.

Manuel Vazquez Caruncho and Francisco Branas Fernandez of the Complejo Hospitalario Xeral-Calde in Spain analyzed descriptions of Chopin's hallucinations from those close to him. They propose the French-Polish composer suffered from a type of epilepsy that produces conscious hallucinations that last from seconds to minutes. The research was published in the journal Medical Humanities, a specialist publication of the BMJ.

Caruncho and Fernandez cite an extract from Sand's memoir, where she recalls returning to the home she shared with Chopin, along with her son, after a long journey delayed by flooding. The composer had been playing one of his preludes and told Sand he was lulled to sleep while at the piano and saw himself drowned at the bottom of a lake.

Hallucinations are typically seen in patients with severe psychiatric disorders like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Other romantic compos-

ers such as Robert Schumann, who was committed to an asylum, experienced auditory and visual hallucinations which some believed were the product of his musical genius.

Caruncho and Fernandez say Chopin's hallucinations occurred mostly in the evening or coincided with fever, unlike those linked to psychotic disorders.

While Chopin was plagued by health ailments, like severe headaches and insomnia, there is no record he was diagnosed with any neurological problems. Some historians have suggested the composer's frequently noted melancholic moods may have been due to depression. Experts are split on what ultimately killed him; his death certificate lists tuberculosis as the cause, but others suspect it may have been cystic fibrosis. A request to the Polish government to perform genetic tests on Chopin's heart was denied.

Determining medical conditions and what killed historical figures is extremely difficult without forensic proof. In recent years, scientists have suggested the Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was killed by strep throat after comparing accounts of his illness with diseases prevalent at his time of death. And after years of computer scans and DNA testing, researchers concluded Egypt's King Tut died of complications from a broken leg and malaria.

Caruncho and Fernandez suggest that because Chopin was able to recall his complex hallucinations in detail, they could have been caused by a temporal lobe epilepsy, though it's not known whether that might have contributed to his death. They acknowledge that without brain imaging or other tests, proving it will be nearly impossible.

Charlie Sheen hospitalized with abdominal pain



AP

In this Oct. 25, 2010 file photo, Hugh Jackman attends the opening night of "Driving Miss Daisy" on Broadway in New York.

Jackman to return to the Academy Awards stage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Academy Awards host Hugh Jackman is returning to the Oscar stage.

Producers say the 42-year-old actor will serve as a presenter on the 83rd Academy Awards next month.

He'll join previously announced presenters Sandra Bullock, Jeff Bridges, Oprah Winfrey, Halle Berry and Marisa Tomei.

Bullock and Bridges won the top acting Oscars last year. Bridges is a nominee this year for his leading role in "True Grit."

Berry won the lead actress Oscar for 2001's "Monster's Ball." Tomei won the supporting actress prize for 1992's "My Cousin Vinny." Winfrey, who appeared on last year's Academy Awards, was nominated for a supporting-actress Oscar for 1985's "The Color Purple."

The 83rd Academy Awards will be presented Feb. 27 at the Kodak Theatre and broadcast live on ABC. James Franco and Anne Hathaway are hosting.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen's publicist says the actor has been hospitalized in Los Angeles with severe abdominal pains. Publicist Stan Rosenfield gave no other details of the 45-year-old's condition.

Celebrity website TMZ.com was the first to report Sheen's hospitalization Thursday. TMZ says Sheen was taken by ambulance following an early morning 911 call.

The Emmy-nominated star of

CBS' "Two and a Half Men" has been dogged by personal problems and apparent health issues. This is his third hospitalization in as many months. And just last week, CBS entertainment president Nina Tassler said network officials "have a high level of concern" about his off-camera behavior.

This Jan. 28, 2009 file photo shows Charlie Sheen in Los Angeles.

AP



Luke Perry: '90210' guys remain close friends



NEW YORK (AP)—Luke Perry says having his former "90210" co-star Jason Priestley direct his new TV film wasn't exactly a reunion because they stayed close friends even after moving on from the teen drama.

Perry says he Priestley "always talk on the phone," and his other male co-stars, including Ian Ziering and Brian Austin Green, were a "really good strong core group" while the

show aired from 1990 to 2000. He says they maintain close ties to this day.

Perry stars in and Priestley directs the Hallmark Movie Channel's "Goodnight for Justice," which premieres Saturday at 7 p.m. Eastern. Perry plays a judge in Wyoming in the late 1800s.

Perry says the friendship and trust he shared with Priestley created a sort of "shorthand" when it came to filming.

In this Oct. 5, 2010 file photo, U.S. actor Luke Perry poses for photographers during the 26th MIPCOM (International Film and Programme Market for Tv, Video, Cable and Satellite) in Cannes, southeastern France.

AP

Cattrall wants more 'Sex,' happy with Razzie nod

NEW YORK (AP)—Despite a barrage of bad reviews and pair of Razzie nominations, "Sex and the City" star Kim Cattrall is hopeful for another installment in the TV and film franchise.

The 54-year-old actress says she's glad the Razzies exist because "it keeps you honest." She hasn't been approached for a third film yet, but she says she believes the fan following is still strong.

Cattrall and her co-stars—Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon—share a Razzie nod for worst actress for "Sex and the City 2." The film is also up for worst picture.

"The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" and "The Last Airbender" lead the nominations with nine each.



In this May 24, 2010 file photo, Kim Cattrall attends the premiere of "Sex And The City 2" at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Anthony Hopkins wants to play Hitchcock on screen

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hopkins as Hitchcock? Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins says he hopes play the legendary filmmaker on screen and has been attached to such a project for four years. The 73-year-old actor says Hitchcock was "a very interesting man, very strange guy, very dark man." Hopkins says that 50 years ago he saw a film about the making of "Psycho" that stuck with him as "the most frightening film I have ever seen." He says British director Sacha Gervasi is set to direct the Hitchcock film. Hopkins says he's hopeful that the project comes to fruition, adding that, in Hollywood today, "you just turn it over and go with whatever happens if you are lucky." Hopkins' latest film is "The Rite," which opens Friday. He won the best-actor Oscar for 1991's "Silence of the Lambs."

Will Ferrell to visit 'The Office' for an arc

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Ferrell is coming to "The Office." Ferrell will play a visiting branch manager over an arc of several episodes. NBC announced the casting Wednesday

with the promise that Ferrell's character will be "just as inappropriate" as Steve Carell's Michael Scott. Carell's farewell is expected four episodes before the season finale of "The Office." In preparation of his exit, NBC is bringing in high-profile guests, including "The Office" creator Ricky Gervais, reprising his role as David Brent. Gervais will make a cameo in Thursday's episode, which airs at 9 p.m. EST.

Jon Stewart joins 9/11 memorial foundation board

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Stewart is on the board of the foundation building the Sept. 11 memorial in New York. The comedian-activist was appointed to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum board of directors Thursday afternoon. Stewart thanked the board and its chairman, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and said he would do what's needed to help. The host of the Emmy-winning "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central recently used his show to champion a federal bill that provided billions to treat workers who became ill from exposure to toxic World Trade Center dust. Foundation

president Joe Daniels says Stewart is an important public figure and a regular New Yorker who saw the world change on 9/11. The memorial—twin reflecting pools set above the fallen towers' footprints—is set to open to the public by this Sept. 11.

Rape charges against Mexican pop singer dismissed

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—A Mexican judge has ruled there is not enough evidence to try Mexican pop singer Kalimba on rape charges, and ordered him released. The attorney general of the Caribbean coast state of Quintana Roo says he disagrees with the ruling, but is not planning to appeal it. The charges alleged that a 17-year-old girl was raped on Dec. 19 at a Quintana Roo hotel. Francisco Alor said Thursday the judge could have ordered a trial on lesser charges of corrupting a minor, because the girl was drinking. Kalimba denies the accusations. The case received front-page coverage in Mexican newspapers and has been a staple of talk shows. The singer's full name is Kalimba Kadjaly Marichal Ibar. He formerly performed with the group OV7.

Casual modern dress inspires wish for old-fashioned style

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: American society has become ultra-casual in dress and manners. When I look at old photographs, men and women used to dress better and seemed to take more pride in their appearance. Now they wear pajamas to shop, torn jeans to work and clothes that are too small for large bodies. I feel we are a nation of slob.



Are we doomed to be this way in the future? I work in an office of slob and everyone knows I dislike the "casual atmosphere," so please don't print my name.

DRESSED FOR SUCCESS IN ALBUQUERQUE

Dear Abby

DEAR DRESSED FOR SUCCESS: You are correct. People did dress differently in the 1950s, which took time, effort and money. Things started changing in the '60s—when the next generation became the demographic that was being marketed to. After that, younger people began adopting the "grunge chic" they were seeing in music videos.

Are we doomed to be this way forever? I think so, unless there's a reactionary fashion revolution. Frankly, I don't see it happening anytime soon.

But before labeling your co-workers as slob, please remember that they were hired looking the way they do, and if your employer didn't approve of their appearance, there would be a dress code that is strictly enforced.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Tonight I came home to find three messages on my phone. One was from a doctor's office; the other two were business calls. Each one asked me to call back. The callers spoke plainly—until they came to the phone number, which they rattled off so fast I had to replay the messages several times just to be able to write the numbers down.

What's the matter with people? This happens all the time at work and at home.

Callers, PLEASE slow down and speak clearly—as if you are picturing someone actually writing down your number. Abby, am I getting old, or what?

SAY WHA —? ORANGE, CALIF.

DEAR SAY WHA—?: What you're experiencing usually happens when the caller is in a hurry or calling a list of people they're trying to get through. In a social context, it is inconsiderate. In a business context, it is unprofessional.

People in the financial field are trained to repeat their phone numbers slowly, clearly and TWICE to prevent the problem you have described. And readers, if you are guilty of this, please slow down and take note.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have four adult children. I was diagnosed with lung cancer three years ago, but it was detected early and my prognosis is excellent. They keep making comments about their "inheritance." An example: "Take care of that painting—it's my inheritance." Dealing with the cancer is stressful, but their comments make me feel terrible. What can I say to shut them up?

NOT GOING ANYWHERE YET

DEAR NOT GOING ANYWHERE YET: Allow me to offer a few suggestions: 1. "Stop hanging crepe because I'm not dying"; 2. "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched"; and 3. "I will, because I've decided to donate it to a museum."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

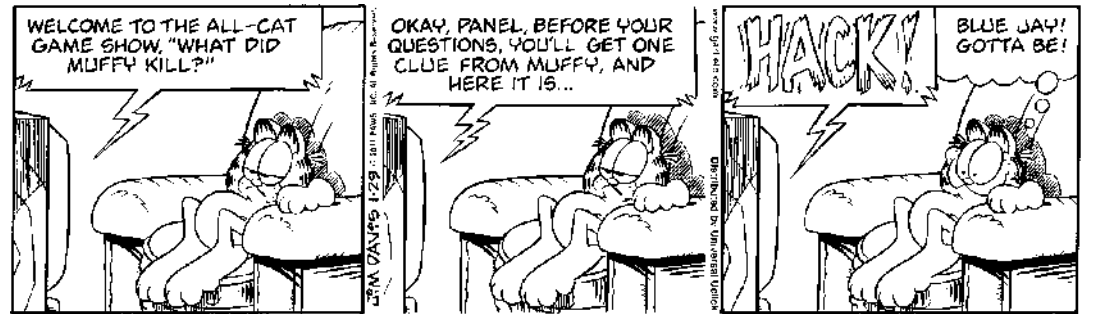
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Q-tips, e.g.
6 Hair weave?
11 Easter flower
12 Spindle-top structure
14 Fate
15 North or Hardy
16 Presidential nickname
17 Grab
19 "Who am I — argue?"
20 Christian denom.
22 Buck's mate
23 Freshly
24 Irrefutable evidence
26 Ponta touch book
28 Raw rock
30 "Ula-lume" writer
31 Estimates

DOWN

1 Volleyball
2 Aware of
3 Branch
4 Honey bunch?
5 Happily full
6 Get drunk
7 Anger
8 "The Greatest"
9 U. of California
10 Good loser?
11 Cut corners
13 Gets bigger
18 Cyclotron bit
21 Play —
23 Perpendicular
25 To and
27 Do some lawnwork
29 Conclusions
31 Grates
32 Catches sight of
33 Wedding venue
34 Succumb to gravity
36 Dressed for a frat party?
37 Literary islander
38 Macho types
41 Peak periods
44 Orange coat
45 Sketch
48 Chart format
50 December 24 or 31

Solution time: 27 mins.

Y	F	A	S	R	C	A	M	A	P
A	I	S	E	A	I	A	M	A	N
P	A	P	E	R	A	S	P	R	N
N	U	T	S	E	N	G	E	L	S
A	B	C	E	X	T	A	H	E	A
A	S	S	J	M	P	O	S	C	A
P	A	N	T	S	T	E	W	P	O
R	F	A	I	A	E	P	F	E	S
A	S	P	E	R	S	E	A	P	A
D	O	C	P	N	V	A	L	U	E
O	P	S	M	A	D	E	S	T	E

Yesterday's answer 1-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Lambert, 29; Heather Graham, 41; Oprah Winfrey, 57; Tom Selleck, 66

Happy Birthday: Take hold of your life. Your ability to bring things together and to organize what you have to work with will turn you into a leader. You'll have a knack for being in the right place at the right time and will attract the attention and favors you require to get what you want. Your numbers are 2, 13, 16, 23, 34, 39, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make the most of your time and be sure to share what you have to offer with the people you feel most comfortable with. Much can be accomplished with regard to your relationships. Your unique and creative contributions will result in popularity. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): More talk and action will lead to better results. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. A community or neighborhood effort can pay off but don't promise to do more or offer more. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll find it much easier to figure out what you want to do next if you look into more obscure careers or pastimes. Pursuing the unusual will hold your interest so you'll stick with it and finish. Love and romance are in the stars. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't overreact. Be willing to adjust to change and accept what others want to do. Don't limit what you can do by being stubborn or jealous. The best route to take is the one of least resistance. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There is much you can accomplish if you take on a creative project. A partnership will bring you added focus and power to reach for greater results. Entertainment should be scheduled for the evening hours. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a good look at your life and you will know what needs to be done to get things back on track. Don't let emotional blackmail cause you to back down or give in to someone who isn't good for you. Communication will help to lessen your stress. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get involved in an activity that will keep you busy and away from trouble at home. A friend or lover will help you with a creative endeavor. Working toward a goal will bring you greater self-confidence. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Distance yourself from anything or anyone that brings you down. Stay focused and upbeat about your goals. Befriend someone who can contribute and encourage you but don't give away too much because you are grateful. Selling yourself short will be your downfall. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be overly emotional regarding personal matters or affairs of the heart. Listen to what others say but don't overreact. Diplomacy will count for a lot and could save you from making a terrible, costly mistake. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your ability to size up a situation will allow you to get ahead personally and professionally. You will be tempted to take on a responsibility that will make it difficult to reach your own goals. Offer suggestions not time. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look at the big picture. There is a lot more you can accomplish if you focus on what interests you the most. Dedicate your time and effort to something that builds your self-esteem and gives you a purpose. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There may be too much going on behind closed doors for you to make an honest assessment of your situation. You have to be sure before committing. A critical view may seem negative but it will also spare you from backtracking. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are resilient, passionate and observant. You have courage and strength and see things objectively.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9				2				1
	3			7				6
				3	9			
		4				8		
5	7			8			2	9
		2				1		
			1		4			
	1			6			4	
8				3				7

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	3	6	8	1	5	9	2
2	1	8	5	3	9	4	7	6
9	6	5	2	4	7	8	3	1
3	2	9	4	7	5	6	1	8
4	8	7	1	6	3	2	5	9
6	5	1	8	9	2	7	4	3
5	3	4	9	2	6	1	8	7
8	7	6	3	1	4	9	2	5
1	9	2	7	5	8	3	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/29

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below are in the puzzle. Find them, and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

JUAN WILLIAMS

Solution: 9 letters

I	N	E	D	N	O	P	S	E	R	R	O	C	B	R
S	E	T	I	R	W	C	H	R	I	S	M	I	R	E
I	L	N	O	T	G	N	I	H	S	A	W	N	O	D
N	Y	A	I	/	I	R	P	I	G	I	P	I	W	N
M	A	E	N	I	A	M	A	B	A	H	E	N	O	
U	T	W	L	A	E	N	Z	D	N	U	T	R	I	W
L	L	I	A	S	C	I	O	E	I	P	N	T	A	
O	A	F	M	R	N	S	L	I	H	O	U	S	E	L
C	N	W	T	E	D	I	W	W	N	A	D	K	L	L
B	T	A	A	E	S	S	K	E	C	I	E	A	L	S
O	I	L	L	T	R	A	M	A	N	A	P	V	U	T
A	C	L	K	O	O	B	A	I	E	R	O	O	B	R
R	E	A	D	T	E	X	P	E	R	I	E	N	C	E
D	O	C	O	M	M	E	N	T	E	N	C	E		
O	R	I	I	I	Y	I	H	I	N	C	M	R	I	

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Atlantic, Awards, Bag, Bar, Board, Book, Bret, Brown, Bulletin, Canal, Chris, Columnist, Commencement, Correspondent, Experience, House, Intern, Kinsley Magazine, Main, Monthly, News, Novak, Op Ed, Opinion, O'Reilly, Panama, Panelist, Prize, Public, Radio, Read, Talk, Time, Wa, ace, Wall Street, Washington, While, Wonder, Writes.

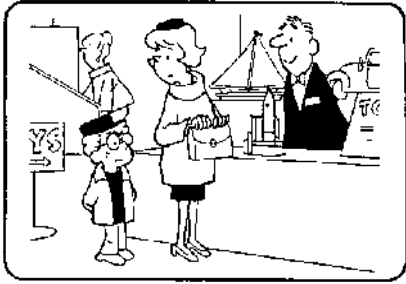
Yesterday's Answer: Religion

Today's COLLECTOR'S WONDERWORD: Values 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 could be derived from today's puzzle. Universal Uclick is a trademark of Universal Uclick, Inc. ©2011 Universal Uclick, Inc. All rights reserved. Universal Uclick is a trademark of Universal Uclick, Inc. ©2011 Universal Uclick, Inc. All rights reserved.

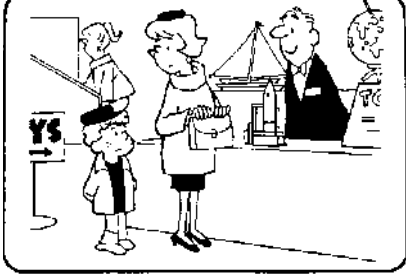
STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, toll-free/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY ROLITOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

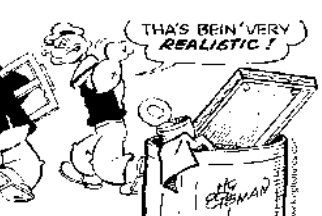
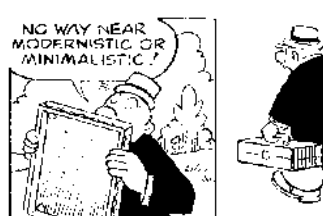
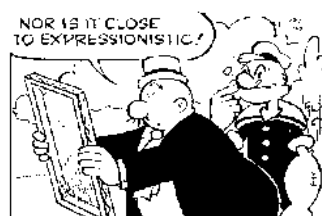
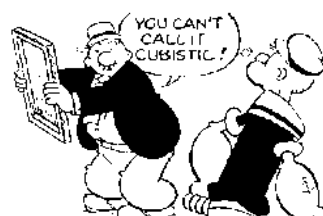
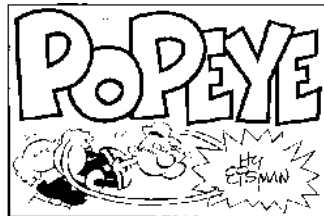


Differences: 1. Coffer replaces key on counter. 2. Glasses are missing. 3. Shelves are black. 4. Sign near escalator is missing. 5. Letter on sign at Shopper has a ponytail. 6. Sign near escalator is missing.

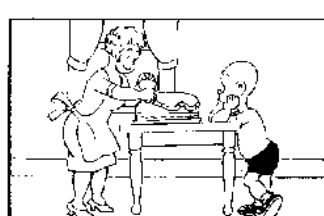
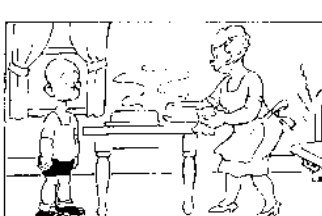
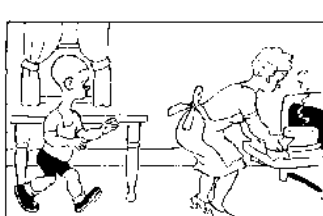
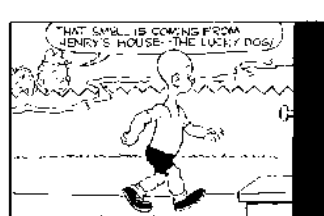
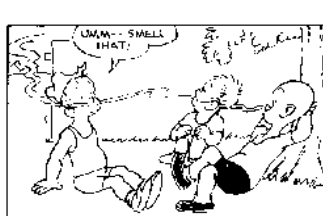
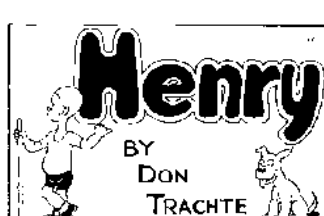
Wishing Well®

5	7	4	7	4	7	8	5	7	5	2	7	5
A	P	B	L	E	E	C	N	A	A	E	S	L
2	5	6	8	5	2	6	2	8	5	6	4	5
X	Y	B	O	Z	E	O	R	N	E	S	F	T
8	6	5	4	7	8	5	2	6	2	6	3	5
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B	E	E	L	S	A	E	R	L	S	E	M	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

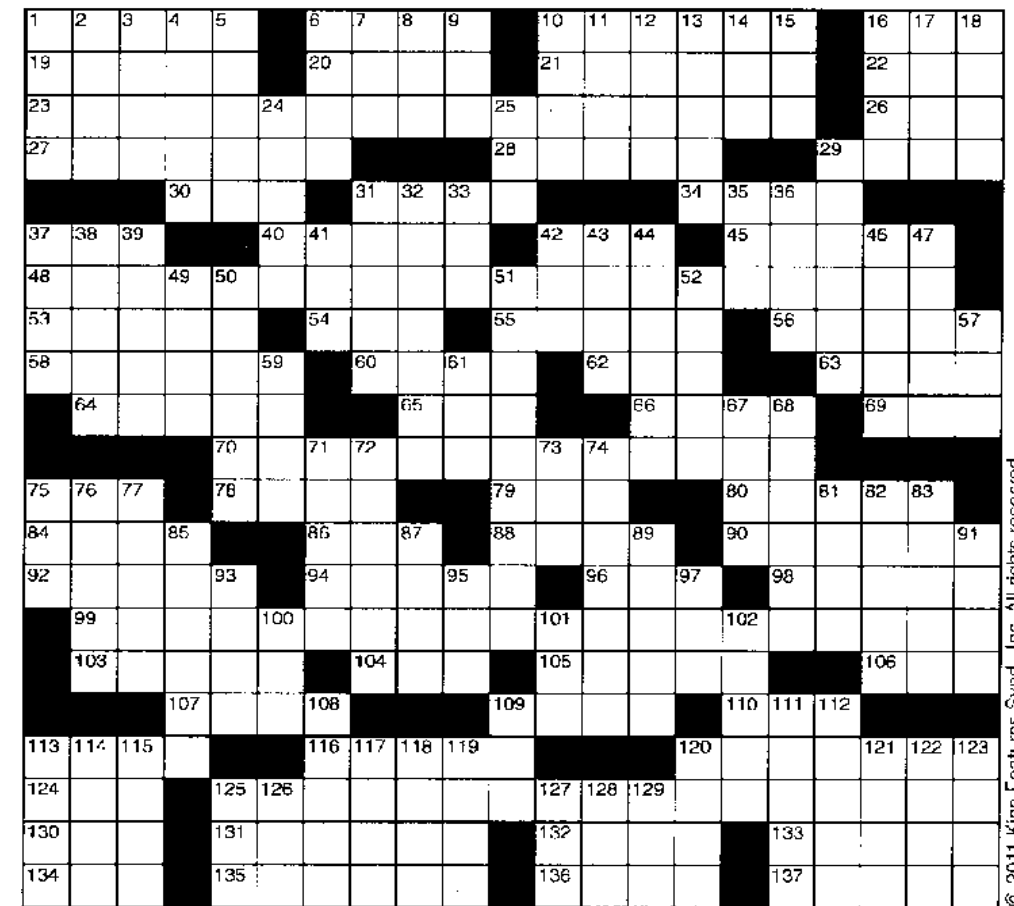


They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword MANE EVENT

- ACROSS
- 1 A lot
 - 6 Bungle
 - 10 Makes a touchdown
 - 16 Hen's hubby
 - 19 Deck type
 - 20 Ford or Grey
 - 21 Frolic
 - 22 Poster abbr.
 - 23 Start of a remark by Jack Simons
 - 26 Distant
 - 27 Expensive appetizer
 - 28 Common contraction
 - 29 Charon's river
 - 30 Wallace or Whitney
 - 31 Moore of "G.I. Jane"
 - 34 Writer Paretsky
 - 37 Actor Tremayne
 - 40 Hangs tinsel
 - 42 Command to Fido
 - 45 Cries like a baby
 - 48 Part 2 of remark
 - 53 React to a pun
 - 54 Enthusiast
 - 55 "Dallas" matriarch
 - 56 Lumoxlike
 - 58 Had a hankering
 - 60 Mister, in
 - 62 Architect's add-on
 - 63 Harness part
 - 64 Radio and TV
 - 65 Duncan's denia
 - 66 "— a Song Go Out of My Heart" ('38 tune)
 - 69 — Bank, NJ
 - 70 Part 3 of remark
 - 75 HST's successor
 - 78 Or the briny charge
 - 80 Disconcert
 - 84 Cub st Ruok?
 - 86 Business abbr.
 - 88 Starchy tuber
 - 90 Moved like a mouse
 - 92 — bel Sol
 - 94 Teatime treat
 - 96 Tachometer meas.
 - 98 Lawn ornament
 - 99 Part 4 of remark
 - 103 Lots of laughter
 - 104 JFK lander
 - 105 Intense
 - 106 Vane letters
 - 107 Tense the
 - 109 Pipe part
 - 110 Cry of discovery
 - 113 Spanish dance
 - 116 Alien's partner
 - 120 Passed into law
 - 124 — Baba
 - 125 End of remark
 - 130 — Buddhism
 - 131 Lunar spacecraft
 - 132 Skater Heiden
 - 133 Kovacs or Pye
 - 134 Actress Caldwell
 - 135 Scr mshaw material
 - 136 Mr. Walesa
 - 137 Cassandra and Merlin
 - 10 Trauma aftermath
 - 11 Spelunker's spot
 - 12 It bakes the cake
 - 13 Alex Haley book
 - 14 Directional suff x
 - 15 Saul — Mare, MI
 - 16 27th president
 - 17 Alt right
 - 18 Crisco or Karl
 - 24 Textbook headings
 - 25 "Bal —"
 - 29 Finn's friend
 - 31 See
 - 32 Distinguished
 - 33 Flavor enhancer: abbr.
 - 35 Honest: name
 - 36 Durban dough
 - 37 Word form for "study"
 - 38 — Zimbalist, Jr.
 - 39 Rock's — Poneys
 - 41 Ring official
 - 42 Missouri airport abbr.
 - 43 Presque ME
 - 44 Dimly illuminated
 - 46 Solitary sort
 - 47 "Wake Up
 - 49 Card collection
 - 50 Silverware city
 - 51 From: now on
 - 52 Opening remark?
 - 59 Place to pontificate
 - 61 Unrefined
 - 67 "Gracious me!"
 - 68 Trinidad's neighbor
 - 71 Voltaire, for one
 - 72 Reagan and Wilson
 - 73 Teachers' org.
 - 74 O'Hara's "From the —"
 - 75 Cal. page
 - 76 Sag
 - 77 Follow
 - 81 "New Yorker" cartoonist
 - 82 Tend a fire
 - 83 Macho types
 - 85 Canada's capital
 - 87 Dovecote sounds
 - 89 Soporific substance
 - 91 W th 31 Down, '56 Frankie
 - 93 Qualified
 - 95 Squirrel's snack
 - 97 "The A-team" actor
 - 100 Manipulate
 - 101 Toque or tam
 - 102 Hotelier Heimsley
 - 108 Salvate
 - 109 Silly Caesar
 - 111 Basketball's E vin
 - 112 Paint pigment
 - 113 "A.I. Thai —" ('79 film)
 - 114 Toast topper
 - 115 Prong
 - 117 Eye appreciatively
 - 118 Flatfish
 - 119 Before long
 - 120 Engrave
 - 121 Mood
 - 122 Kuwaili ruler
 - 123 Poor grades
 - 125 Zipper part
 - 126 — Locka, FL
 - 127 Form of comm.
 - 128 Mine find
 - 129 Incite Rover
- DOWN
- 1 Fountain order
 - 2 Nursery furniture
 - 3 Alan of "California Suite"
 - 4 Holmes' creator
 - 5 Reel
 - 6 Take off
 - 7 Tyler or Ullmann
 - 8 Colorado native
 - 9 Saloon



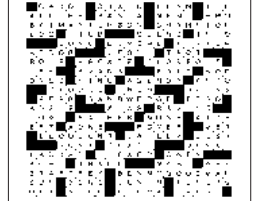
1. POP CULTURE: Who coined the phrase "flower power"?
2. SCIENCE: What is another name for beta carotene?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the title "mahatma" literally mean?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote "The Color Purple"?
5. HISTORY: Who defeated Napo-

- leon at Waterloo?
6. GEOGRAPHY: The Hawaiian islands are a part of what larger group of Pacific islands?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who was the private citizen who was filming President Kennedy's motorcade with a home-movie camera when Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas?
8. TELEVISION: What was the name of the German commandant in "Hogan's Heroes"?
9. COMICS: In the comic strip "Hi and Lois," what is the name of the couple's youngest daughter?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was sometimes called "the rail splitter"?

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1. Beat poet Allen Ginsberg
2. Vitamin A
3. Great soul
4. Alice Walker
5. Duke of Wellington
6. Polynesia
7. Abraham Zapruder
8. Col. Wilhelm Klink
9. Tride
10. Abraham Lincoln

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to expected high occupancy levels on Sunday, January 30, 2011, Waterpark Passes & Waterpark/Brunch Promo Passes will be unavailable for sale and complimentary gift certificates will not be honored on that day. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation. Normal Waterpark Pass sales will resume on Monday, January 31, 2011.

PIC Management

A collage featuring a cup of coffee in the foreground, partially obscuring a Saipan Tribune newspaper. The newspaper's masthead reads "Saipan Tribune Sports" and "Saipan Tribune". A prominent headline states "Minor wins doubles in Australia". Other visible headlines include "Minor ends her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament" and "Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts". A "REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK" section is also visible. A white cup of coffee sits on a saucer with a spoon. A semi-transparent box with text is overlaid on the bottom right of the newspaper. The background is a light blue gradient.

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Djokovic beats Federer to reach final



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Roger Federer saved a parting shot for anyone who thinks his time is up and a changing of the guard in tennis awaits.

“Yeah, I mean, they say that very quickly. ... Let’s talk in six months again,” he said.

The heavily hyped duel between Federer and Rafael Nadal will not happen in Melbourne, opening a rare window for someone else.

Federer, the defending champion, lost to Novak Djokovic 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-4 in the Australian Open semifinals Thursday night. It marks the first time since 2008 neither of tennis’ most dominant men will play in a Grand Slam final. Less than 24 hours earlier, an ailing Nadal’s pursuit of a Rafa Slam evaporated in a quarterfinal loss to fellow Spaniard David Ferrer.

Djokovic will play Ferrer or Andy Murray in the final. On the women’s side, the title match is set with Kim Clijsters facing Li Na. Clijsters beat Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 6-3, and Li eliminated top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Federer and Nadal have combined to win 21 of the last 23 majors. This is also the first time since 2003 that Federer, a 16-time Grand Slam winner, will not hold at least one of the four major trophies.

The Swiss great was outplayed by Djokovic, who reveled in the cooler night weather. It was the second straight time Federer has lost to the Serb—he had match points before losing in the U.S. Open semifinals.

“It’s disappointing and it hurts in the moment itself,” Federer said. “I wish I could have won here again for the fifth time. But wasn’t possible tonight. It’s not the end in any way. It’s a start for many other tournaments after this.”

Federer said he didn’t play the key points well. He fell



Serbia’s Novak Djokovic raises his arms as he celebrates his win over Switzerland’s Roger Federer in their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011.

behind quickly in the first-set tiebreaker on backhand errors, giving Djokovic four set points.

In the second set, he got up a break. Djokovic was scrambling, twice tumbling to the court and losing his racket as he tried to stay in rallies. But Federer, so used to moving in for the kill, let a 5-2 lead slip and dropped the set. From there it was just about over.

“Every time I had slight opportunity, either I didn’t play my best or he played his best,” Federer said. “It was a tough night from this standpoint. Those are sometimes the way matches go.”

Nadal limped away from his match, saying he had a small muscle tear in his upper left leg and casting doubt on his readiness for at least a few weeks. Federer has no ailments to speak of.

“I feel very good. I’m very optimistic about the next 15 tournaments, however many I’m playing,” he said. “I’ve barely lost matches lately re-

ally, so I’m happy with where my game is at, with where my condition is at.

“I’m really excited for what’s to come. This is obviously a bit of a blow. At the same time, I played a good tournament. I have no regrets.”

Djokovic planned to relax and eat popcorn while watching Friday night’s semifinal between Murray, the 2010 finalist, and No. 7-ranked Ferrer.

Murray was leading Nadal in the quarterfinals last year when the Spaniard retired in the third set because of a knee problem that put him off the tour until March. Nadal returned to the tour in March and went on to win the French, Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles.

When he arrived in Melbourne, he was aiming to be the first player since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four men’s majors at once. Now, Murray is hoping to be the first British man since 1936 to win a major.

Clijsters has three Grand Slam titles but is seeking her

first outside the United States. Li already has broken new ground by becoming the first Chinese to reach a Grand Slam singles final. Li saved a match points against Wozniacki and rallied from from a set and a break down.

A victory would put her in the top five in the rankings, and possibly have great repercussions at home. The official Xinhua News Agency says a Grand Slam win by Li would “inspire a rush of new tennis players in China.”

“This is good experience for my whole life because many players, they play a long time, but they never play the final for a Grand Slam,” she said.

Clijsters beat Zvonareva in a repeat of the outcome from the last U.S. Open final. Li defeated Clijsters in the final of the tuneup tournament at Sydney, but the stakes are clearly higher this time.

Clijsters lost the 2004 Australian final to Justine Henin—at that stage she was 0-4

in Grand Slam finals. She has won her last three, including both U.S. Open titles since she returned from a break to get married and have a child.

She was one of three women to win majors last year. After Federer won in Australia, Nadal took the last three men’s crowns.

Djokovic and Juan Martin del Potro are the only players who have broken the Nadal-Federer sequence. Del Potro beat Federer in the 2009 U.S. Open final. Djokovic defeated Federer in the Australian semifinals three years ago, then beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the final.

Since then, Djokovic has been the perennial next-best player - he has finished the last four years at No. 3. His victory Thursday night came easier than his semifinal victory over Federer at the U.S. Open when he had to save two match points.

“It’s really one of the best matches I’ve played in a while,” Djokovic said.

Djokovic appreciates what

Federer and Nadal have done for tennis, but he wouldn’t mind busting up this duopoly.

“On one side it’s good for the sport to have more players being able to win against Federer and Nadal,” he said. “All the credit to them what they have done in last five, six years. They’ve been very dominant and just a great example of champions.

“It was really hard to challenge them, especially in the big events where they play their best tennis. Now these things are changing a little bit, so from that perspective it’s good for the sport.”

He was careful to play down any talk about a new order in tennis.

“Look, it’s maybe early to say that,” said Djokovic, who has improved to seven wins in 20 matches against Federer. “Roger is still very much motivated to reclaim the first spot in the rankings. He’s playing great. Tonight I think I played maybe a better match, but he’s still up there and in extraordinary form and he’s been winning out of the last five, six tournaments he won five,” Djokovic said.

“You have Nadal on the other hand which has been a very, very dominant player. We are still behind them. You can’t say there is a new era coming up. There is more players. More players that are able to win majors, which is good.”

Whatever happens in the women’s final, there will be a new Australian champion. If Murray or Ferrer wins Sunday, there will be another major winner in the men’s mix. But Federer cautioned his competitors and critics to watch out after that. He can handle the Melbourne loss, he said, because “that’s sometimes how it goes.”

“Doesn’t mean the guy that doesn’t win the tournament can’t play tennis,” he said. “That’s sometimes how things are portrayed. I had a great season last year, and I think I’ll have another one this year.”

Titans, Fisher parting ways after 16 seasons



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—In a surprising move, the Tennessee Titans have parted ways with Jeff Fisher, who was the NFL’s longest-tenured coach. The team said in a release Thursday night that “Fisher will no longer be the head coach of the team.”

The Titans announced the move within an hour of a report by SI.com that they were negotiating Fisher’s departure and released a longer statement a couple hours later saying they will always appreciate his leadership through some of their “greatest heights” during 16 full seasons as coach.

“It became evident that con-

sensus was increasingly hard to find and reality wasn’t matching the vision we discussed. It is unfortunate that this decision is coming at this juncture, but we believe that we have reached the point where change is in the best interest of both parties,” according to the statement.

Though the 52-year-old Fisher had been derided locally as “Coach .500” or “Coacho Ocho,” he seemingly had just survived a battle with quarterback Vince Young. Titans owner Bud Adams decided to either release Young or trade him on Jan. 5. The owner announced two days later that he would be keeping Fisher.

Fisher and Young never really jelled in five seasons to-

gether after the Titans drafted the former Texas standout with the third overall pick in 2006 under orders from Adams. The relationship frayed even as Fisher publicly defended Young until Nov. 21 when the situation boiled over.

Young tossed his shoulder pads and other equipment into the stands after an overtime loss in which the quarterback suffered a season-ending injury.

Running back Chris Johnson said Wednesday while practicing in Hawaii for the Pro Bowl he didn’t think Fisher or Young could work together after “it hit the fan.”

In the end, neither Fisher nor Young survived with the Titans. Even though Adams an-

nounced he was sticking with Fisher for the final year of his contract the move meant Fisher would be coaching for his future in 2011. Fisher has repeatedly said he wanted to finish his career with the franchise, but the coach known for never losing his cool in public while hiding behind his sunglasses may have decided Adams’ decision wasn’t good enough.

Fisher thanked Adams and the franchise for “a special 17 years” in a statement released by the team.

“It has been a tremendous experience. We all did our very best and I think I can look back with fond memories and be very proud of what we accomplished. I want to wish the organization, the current players and the fans nothing but the best in the future.”

The team scheduled a news conference for Friday with Fisher expected to attend to discuss the first coaching change since the franchise relocated to Tennessee from Houston in 1997. One of the leading candidates to replace Fisher is Mike Munchak, the Titans offensive line coach. The Hall of Famer is a favorite of Adams.

Among the four major U.S. sports, only Jerry Sloan with the NBA’s Utah Jazz has been with the same team longer than Fisher had been with the Titans. Andy Reid of Philadelphia now takes over as the NFL’s longest-tenured coach having finished up his 12th season with the Eagles.

A flurry of coaching changes didn’t help Fisher’s situation.

He fired his defensive coordinator Chuck Cecil a week

ago after giving him a contract for the 2011 season. Defensive line coach Jim Washburn decided last week to take the same job with Philadelphia and his departure was followed by running backs coach Craig Johnson, who signed with Minnesota as the Vikings quarterbacks coach.

Fisher seemed to be taking his time filling those holes.

Fisher has coached more NFL games for one franchise than all but six Hall of Famers: George Halas, Tom Landry, Don Shula, Chuck Noll, Curly Lambeau and Bud Grant. He ranks third among active coaches in career wins with a record of 147-126, behind only Bill Belichick (176) and Mike Shanahan (160), and he is 20th all-time in coaching victories.

Celtics open West Coast trip with win over Blazers



PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Ray Allen scored 18 points, Paul Pierce added 17 and the Boston Celtics opened their West Coast road swing with an 88-78 win over the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday night.

Rajon Rondo had 11 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Celtics, winners of seven of their last eight. Kevin Garnett had 10 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and Kendrick Perkins had 10 points and nine rebounds in his second game back since tearing knee ligaments in last year's NBA finals.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Trail Blazers, and Andre Miller added 14 points and seven assists. Wesley Matthews had 12 points but shot just 4 of 15 from the field.

The Blazers made only two of their first 12 shots to start the fourth quarter and fell behind 78-63. But Portland hit five shots in a row, with Rudy Fernandez making a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 82-77 with 48.9 seconds remaining. However, Glen Davis and Garnett each made two free throws to seal it.

The Celtics, playing the first game of a four-game road trip, were downright sloppy at times, tying a season high with 21 turnovers. Portland took 26 more shots than Boston, but made just 36 percent from the field.

Aldridge was playing with a bruised hip sustained Monday against Sacramento. The reigning Western Conference player of the week had just nine points in the 96-81 loss, which snapped the Blazers' five-game winning streak.

Against Boston, the Blazers got a lift from the bench in the first half, getting eight points from Dante Cunningham and six points from Patrick Mills. Pierce, who had 14 in the half, made a 3-pointer to give Boston a 40-33 lead. The Blazers cut the lead to four by half-time.

Boston went up 62-52 after Allen made his third 3-pointer and then

scored on a layup.

Knicks 93, Heat 88

In New York, Danilo Gallinari and Landry Fields made consecutive 3-pointers in the final 1:18 to lead the New York Knicks over the Miami Heat.

Amare Stoudemire scored 24 points, Gallinari finished with 20 points and Fields added 19 points and 13 rebounds to help the Knicks win their second straight after a six-game losing streak.

Dwyane Wade had 34 points and 16 rebounds, but missed all seven shots in the fourth quarter after he was 14 of 15

through three. LeBron James finished with 24 points, but was just 7 of 24 from the floor.

The Heat, playing without Chris Bosh because of a sprained left ankle, lost for the fifth time in six games. They managed only 15 points in the fourth quarter as their seven-game winning streak against the Knicks was broken.

Mavericks 111, Rockets 106

In Dallas, Tyson Chandler matched his season high with 21 points as Dallas hung on after wasting most of a 25-point lead to beat Houston.

J.J. Barea scored 19 points, Dirk

Nowitzki added 18 and Jason Terry had 15 for the Mavericks, who have won four of five following a six-game losing streak.

Luis Scola led Houston with 30 points, and Kevin Martin had 27.

The Mavericks were in front at half-time, 64-47, but Houston went on a 26-6 run to cut the deficit to 77-75 with 4:06 left in the third quarter.

Houston then pulled to 104-103 with 51.8 seconds left when Scola completed a 12-2 run with a tip-in, but Barea hit a 13-footer with 32.9 seconds to go and Terry made two free throws to seal the victory.



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) shoots as Portland Trail Blazers' Nicolas Batum (88) looks on in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011, in Portland, Ore.

NBA suspends O.J. Mayo 10 games for positive test

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The NBA has suspended guard O.J. Mayo 10 games without pay for violating the league and union's anti-drug program with a positive test.

The league announced the suspension Thursday for Mayo's positive test for dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA). Mayo's suspension will start Friday night when the Grizzlies visit Philadelphia, and he will be able to return Feb. 15 also against the 76ers in Memphis.

Mayo said in a statement released by the team that he is extremely disappointed he will miss 10 games as the Grizzlies are making a push for the playoffs. He blamed an over the counter supplement that he didn't know was banned by the NBA for the positive test, but a team spokesman said Mayo declined to say which supplement he used.

"It was an honest mistake, but I take full responsibility for my actions," Mayo said in the statement released by the team. I apologize to my fans, teammates and the Grizzlies organization for regrettably not doing the necessary research about what

supplements I can put in my body."

Mayo's agent did not immediately return a message left at his office Thursday.

Mayo was the No. 3 pick overall in 2008 after only one season at USC, and Minnesota swapped him draft night deal to the Grizzlies for Kevin Love. Mayo was runner-up to Chicago's Derrick Rose for rookie of the year.

But the guard was moved to the bench earlier this season, starting just 15 of Memphis' 45 games this season. He's been banded about as possible trade bait even while ranking fourth on the Grizzlies with 12.2 points per game.

Grizzlies owner Michael Heisley said Mayo will continue practicing with the team during his suspension.

"O.J. had a lack of judgment but has shown complete accountability," Heisley said in a statement. "We will continue to support O.J. during this time as we have from the moment he joined the team in 2008. He has unselfishly done everything we have asked of him, and we expect him to grow as a player and a person from this experience."



SAN DIEGO (AP)—

Tiger Woods began his new season with no bogeys, no birdies on the par 5s and no drama.

Looking for a new start after a disastrous year on and off the golf course, Woods felt little stress Thursday in the Farmers Insurance Open with a 3-under 69 on the North Course that left him five shots behind South Korean rookie Sung-hoon Kang.

If the setting was familiar for Woods, so was his middle-of-the-pack position. In four of his six wins at this tournaments, he has been at least five shots behind after the opening round.

"I'm happy with the way I played, absolutely," Woods said. "I could have been a lot better if I took care of the par 5s a little bit more, but obviously, I didn't do that."

Kang, a 24-year-old rookie, finished with back-to-back birdies on the North Course for an 8-under 64, giving him a one-shot lead over Alex Prugh and

Woods starts year with 69 and trails by 5 strokes

Rickie Fowler. Another rookie, Chris Kirk, was another shot back at 66.

Phil Mickelson shot 32 on the back nine for a 5-under 67 to match the best score on the tougher South Course, which hosted the 2008 U.S. Open that Woods won in a playoff. Also at 67 on the South was John Daly, whose last win came in 2004 at this tournament. He is the last player to win at Torrey Pines when Woods was in the field.

"This place means a lot to me," Daly said. "The top golfers play here every year. That says something."

Woods no longer is No. 1 - he has slipped to No. 3 in the world ranking and can't improve on that this week - but he has not played the public course he has practically owned since that U.S. Open in 2008. He missed the next year because of knee surgery, and last year while in a Mississippi addiction clinic after being caught

in extramarital affairs.

"Welcome back to Torrey," was a popular phrase from the gallery throughout his round, in which Woods played solidly except on the greens. He made only two putts longer than 3 feet - a 10-foot par save on No. 8, and a 25-foot birdie putt on the par-3 sixth that bounced along until catching the right corner of the cup.

"I didn't leave myself any putts," Woods said. "I kept leaving myself above the hole. And I didn't take advantage of the par 5s."

The North Course is not the pushover it has been in past years because of some new length, and not just in distance. Along with being some 90 yards longer, the rough was allowed to grow and is thicker than the grass found on the South Course.

"I didn't know the North was as long as the South," Ben Curtis said after a 70. He knows

better, but it felt that way if tee shots did not stay in the narrow, canted fairways.

Woods was in shorter grass on half of his 14 tee shots, although four of those misses came on the par 5s. He couldn't get to the green in two, and didn't make the birdie putts.

Even so, he looked more like the Woods who ended last year with a playoff loss at the Chevron World Challenge, not the guy who played so poorly for so much of the year that he didn't win on the PGA Tour for the first time in his career.

It felt like a typical season-opener for Woods, including his position on the leaderboard. In his last four trips to this PGA Tour event, he has trailed by seven, six, five and two shots after the opening round and went on to win them all.

Even so, scoring on the North was lower, and Woods will need to pick up the pace on the South Course. He is playing the first

two days with Anthony Kim and Rocco Mediate, whom Woods defeated in that epic U.S. Open playoff at Torrey Pines.

Mediate was chattering away, as usual, but there wasn't much conversation about that 19-hole playoff from 2008.

"We didn't play that golf course," Woods said.

Kim was among those at 68, a tribute to his great scrambling. He chipped in from 40 feet for par, holed a 30-foot par putt from the fringe and made two other par saves outside 10 feet.

The top of the leaderboard was filled with youth, starting with Kang, who earned his card through Q-school. Fowler was voted the PGA Tour rookie of the year in 2010 on a ballot that included Prugh. Kirk finished second on the Nationwide Tour last year, when he hurt his wrist and couldn't play the last two events.

On the South Course, rookies Fabian Gomez of Argentina and

Keegan Bradley were among those at 67

Kang had the recipe on the North Course that Woods couldn't find.

"This course, all the par 5s are reachable, so I really tried to keep to the fairways and it worked really well," Kang said. "And I really had a good chance on the par 5s. That's why I played very well today."

He played them in 4 under, including an eagle on No. 14 when he chipped in from 25 feet.

Daly has special memories of Torrey from his playoff win in 2004, but he wasn't in such a great mood a year ago. He missed the cut after rounds of 79-71, and told a Golf Channel television crew that was taping a documentary that he was done. Some media outlets construed that to mean he was retiring, although Daly had made similar comments right after a bad performance.

"You get frustrated," Daly said.

That wasn't the case Thursday, a spectacular day of sunshine along the Pacific coast.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	35	10	.778	
New York	24	21	.533	11
Philadelphia	20	25	.444	15
New Jersey	14	32	.304	21 1/2
Toronto	13	33	.283	22 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	31	14	.689	
Orlando	30	16	.652	1 1/2
Atlanta	29	17	.630	2 1/2
Charlotte	19	25	.432	11 1/2
Washington	13	31	.295	17 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	31	14	.689	
Milwaukee	17	26	.395	13
Indiana	16	26	.381	13 1/2
Detroit	17	29	.370	14 1/2
Cleveland	8	37	.178	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	39	7	.848	
Dallas	30	15	.667	8 1/2
New Orleans	31	16	.660	8 1/2
Memphis	22	24	.478	17
Houston	22	26	.458	18

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	29	16	.644	
Denver	27	18	.600	2
Utah	27	19	.587	2 1/2
Portland	25	22	.532	5
Minnesota	10	35	.222	19

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	33	13	.717	
Phoenix	20	24	.455	12
Golden State	19	26	.422	13 1/2
L.A. Clippers	17	28	.378	15 1/2
Sacramento	10	33	.233	21 1/2

Yesterday's Games

New York 93, Miami 88
Dallas 111, Houston 106
Boston 88, Portland 78

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	41	387	324	1171	28.6
Stoudemire, NYK	44	430	279	1147	26.1
James, MIA	42	372	285	1087	25.9
Ellis, GOL	45	435	215	1159	25.8
Wade, MIA	41	357	279	1030	25.1
Bryant, LAL	46	403	280	1144	24.9
Rose, CHI	44	395	222	1082	24.6
Gordon, LAC	41	333	242	988	24.1
Anthony, DEN	38	316	241	898	23.6
Nowitzki, DAL	35	296	187	815	23.3
Martin, HOU	45	302	342	1044	23.2
Griffin, LAC	45	384	242	1016	22.6
Westbrook, OKC	45	341	315	1008	22.4
Howard, ORL	44	337	294	968	22.0
Williams, UTA	46	325	277	1009	21.9
Love, MIN	45	327	256	973	21.6
Bargnani, TOR	40	328	154	859	21.5
Granger, IND	41	300	187	875	21.3
Aldridge, POR	46	386	196	971	21.1
Beasley, MIN	41	344	125	851	20.8

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	221	342	.646
Okafor, NOR	209	353	.592
A. Johnson, TOR	178	304	.586
Odum, LAL	290	504	.575
Horford, ATL	310	544	.570
Howard, ORL	337	592	.569
Ibaka, OKC	183	324	.565
McGee, WAS	163	294	.554
Boozer, CHI	219	398	.550
Young, PHL	229	424	.540

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	45	225	483	708	15.7
Howard, ORL	44	166	424	590	13.4
Randolph, MEM	42	196	356	552	13.1
Griffin, LAC	45	173	404	577	12.8
Bogut, MIL	36	127	293	420	11.7
Gasol, LAL	46	161	324	485	10.5
Okafor, NOR	47	147	338	485	10.3
Horford, ATL	44	108	319	427	9.7
Odum, LAL	46	102	336	438	9.5
Duncan, SAN	46	118	318	436	9.5

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	33	426	12.9
Nash, PHX	42	461	11.0
Paul, NOR	47	457	9.7
Williams, UTA	46	434	9.4
Wall, WAS	32	299	9.3
Felton, NYK	44	391	8.9
Calderon, TOR	39	334	8.6
Westbrook, OKC	45	376	8.4
Kidd, DAL	44	367	8.3
Rose, CHI	44	355	8.1

FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN PAR SCORES

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Scores Thursday from the Farmers Insurance Open, a US PGA Tour event on two par-72 courses: 7,698-yard Torrey Pines South Course; 7,067-yard Torrey Pines North Course (a-denotes amateur):

FIRST ROUND

Sunghoon Kang	33-31	—64n
Alex Prugh	34-31	—65n
Rickie Fowler	34-31	—65n
Chris Kirk	32-34	—66n
John Daly	33-34	—67s
Brandt Jobe	33-34	—67n
Bill Haas	33-34	—67n
Keegan Bradley	35-32	—67n
Fabian Gomez	34-33	—67s
Ryuji Imada	33-34	—67n
Fredrik Jacobson	33-34	—67n
Y.E. Yang	34-33	—67n
Phil Mickelson	35-32	—67s

Marc Leishman	34-33	—67n
Anthony Kim	34-34	—68n
Matt Jones	34-34	—68s
Ben Martin	34-34	—68n
Paul Stankowski	35-33	—68s
Rory Sabbatini	33-35	—68n
David Mathis	33-35	—68n
Kyle Stanley	33-35	—68n
Scott McCarron	34-35	—69n
Kevin Sutherland	36-33	—69s
Jhonattan Vegas	32-37	—69n
Hunter Mahan	37-32	—69s
Tiger Woods	34-35	—69n
Brian Davis	34-35	—69s
Zack Miller	34-35	—69n
Michael Thompson	33-36	—69s
Jamie Lovemark	33-36	—69s
Kevin Streelman	35-34	—69s
Dustin Johnson	36-33	—69s
Camilo Villegas	33-36	—69n
Pat Perez	35-34	—69n
Jason Gore	34-36	—70n
Brandt Snedeker	34-36	—70s
Carl Pettersson	34-36	—70n
Nick Watney	35-35	—70n
Ben Crane	35-35	—70s
Andres Romero	36-34	—70n
Ben Curtis	35-35	—70n
David Duval	33-37	—70s
Tommy Gainey	34-36	—70n
Brendan Steele	34-36	—70s
Bobby Gates	33-37	—70s
Hunter Haas	35-35	—70n
Billy Mayfair	34-36	—70s
Stewart Cink	33-37	—70s
Lucas Glover	33-37	—70s
Chris Couch	34-36	—70s
a-Anthony Paolucci	33-37	—70s
Steven Bowditch	35-35	—70n
Martin Piller	35-35	—70n
Blake Adams	36-35	—71n
Chris DiMarco	34-37	—71n
Derek Lamely	37-34	—71s
Robert Allenby	35-36	—71s
Charlie Wi	34-37	—71n
Rocco Mediate	34-37	—71n
Gary Woodland	35-36	—71n
Bio Kim	34-37	—71n
Colt Knost	37-34	—71s
Justin Hicks	35-36	—71n
Joseph Bramlett	34-37	—71n
Scott Stallings	36-35	—71n
Jarrod Lyle	35-36	—71n
Michael Connell	35-36	—71s
Len Mattiace	34-37	—71n
Tag Ridings	36-35	—71n
Spencer Levin	37-34	—71n
Jimmy Walker	37-34	—71n
Bubba Watson	35-36	—71s
Bill Lunde	35-36	—71n
Charles Howell III	36-35	—71n
Cameron Tringale	36-35	—71s
Chris Baryla	38-33	—71n
Greg Chalmers	37-35	—72n
Harrison Frazer	37-35	—72s
J.J. Henry	36-36	—72s
Stuart Appleby	35-37	—72s
Shane Bertsch	36-36	—72s
Michael Bradley	34-38	—72n
K.J. Choi	35-37	—72s
Josh Teater	35-37	—72s
D.J. Brigman	39-33	—72n
Joe Durant	35-37	—72n
Paul Goydos	36-36	—72s
Tom Gillis	38-34	—72s
Chris Riley	35-37	—72n
Matt Bettencourt	37-35	—72n
Mike Weir	36-36	—72n
Justin Rose	33-39	—72s
Vijay Singh	35-37	—72s
J.B. Holmes	36-36	—72s
Scott Gutschewski	38-34	—72n
Daniel Summerhays	35-37	—72n
Rich Beem	36-37	—73n
Lee Janzen	34-39	—73n
James Driscoll	36-37	—73n
Garrett Willis	36-37	—73n
Arjun Atwal	35-38	—73s
Chad Campbell	36-37	—73s
Brian Smock	39-34	—73n
William McGirt	36-37	—73s
Richard S. Johnson	37-36	—73s
Troy Merritt	38-35	—73n
D.A. Points	39-34	—73s
Kevin Na	36-37	—73n
Davis Love III	36-37	—73s
Martin Laird	36-37	—73s
Scott Gordon	38-35	—73n
Jim Renner	34-39	—73n
Boo Weekley	40-34	—74s
Kent Jones	36-38	—74s
Alex Cejka	36-38	—74s
John Senden	36-38	—74n
Troy Matteson	36-38	—74s
Chez Reavie	35-39	—74s
David Hearn	38-36	—74n
Steve Marino	35-39	—74n
Tim Herron	34-40	—74s
Peter Tomasulo	35-39	—74s
Matt McQuillan	34-40	—74n
Jesper Parnevik	38-37	—75s
Stephen Ames	37-38	—75s
Nate Smith	35-40	—75s
Billy Horschel	40-35	—75s
Angel Cabrera	39-36	—75s
Kenny Perry	38-37	—75n
Kevin Kisner	38-37	—75s
Kevin Chappell	39-36	—75s
Alexandre Rocha	37-38	—75s
Nick O'Hern	38-38	—76s
Aaron Baddeley	38-38	—76s
Duffy Waldorf	38-38	—76n
Charley Hoffman	36-40	—76n
Michael Putnam	38-38	—76s
a-Josh Anderson	36-40	—76s
Jeff Hart	35-41	—76s
Will Strickler	38-38	—76n
Dean Wilson	39-37	—76s
John Rollins	35-41	—76n
Nathan Green	36-40	—76s
Webb Simpson	40-36	—76s
Kevin Stadler	38-39	—77s
Chad Collins	38-39	—77s
Shigeki Maruyama	36-41	—77s
Jim Herman	38-39	—77n
Andres Gonzales	40-37	—77s
Robert Garrigus	41-37	—78s
Michael Sim	37-41	—78s
Jon Fiedler	40-39	—79n
Kris Blanks	36-43	—79s
Joe Affrunti	36-43	—79n
James Oh	41-41	—82s
Bryce Molder	WD	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mister-Nelson, Matson-Clarkson top 1st qualifier

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson and Melody Matson and Amanda Clarkson topped last Sunday's first CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team qualifier held at Pacific Islands Club.

In the men's division, Quincy Johnson and Pedro Iguel are positioned in second, Clay McCullough-Sterns and Brandon L. Chargualaf in third, and Daniel Clarkson and Aaron Engelhardt reside in fourth.

For the women's group, Heather Kennedy and Nicole LeBlanc are in second, Christina and Andrea Engelhardt are in third place, Kelley Butcher and Melody Johnson are currently fourth, and Shawn M. Davis and Phyllisina L. Reyes are in fifth place.

Each team will have the opportunity to score points toward qualifying for the CNMI Beach Volleyball National Teams during the series.

After conclusion of the series, the two highest scoring teams of both men's and women's divisions will be given priority by the selection committee to represent the CNMI in select international events throughout 2011. Final team selections will be determined following the last qualifier in the series.

The next qualifier tips off this Sunday, Jan. 30, at PIC. The third qualifier is scheduled again at PIC on Feb. 6.

Then a warm-up tournament leading up to the 19th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival will also serve as the fourth qualifier of the series. The warm-up tourney is titled "For The Love Of Volleyball" and will be held at The Hyatt Regency Saipan on Feb. 12.

Then, in partnership with the Marianas Visitor Authority, the fifth qualifier includes the Marianas Cup Pro-Am tournament from Feb. 25 to Feb. 27 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The qualifier series then concludes with PIC's FIVB Beach Volleyball World Cup-AVC Continental Sub Zonal Tournament from March 3 to March 5. The top qualifiers will receive



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tyce Mister and Melody Matson, seen here in a file photo, topped with their respective partners Chris Nelson and Amanda Clarkson the first CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team qualifier held last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

priority consideration to compete in this event.

The CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team qualifiers are organized by Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

SASC membership drive Sunday

The Saipan Adventure Sports Club will be holding a membership drive tomorrow at 3pm at the Grotto.

Various activities are lined up for the weekend event, including a kids ride, easy and advanced adult ride, and run/walk course. Volunteers are



show up in the weekend activities,

needed for these events.

SASC is hoping more members and interested individuals will

as the group aims to start the year with a big turnout.

SASC has lined up exciting competitions and fun activities for 2011, including the XTERRA Saipan Championships and Tagaman Triathlon in March. (PR)

TEBUTEB

From Page 28

in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation re-appropriated \$60,000 to Team Marianas.

Team Marianas was first given \$20,000, which was part of the unob-

ligated/lapsed funds from Saipan Local Law 15-33 under BY 3391B. Then the remaining \$40,000 came from Public Law 16-21 Section 2 and unobligated/lapsed funds from Saipan Local Law 16-5 under BU3313F.

Meanwhile, Tebuteb said he has set follow-up series of meetings with respective agencies availing poker fees

under the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation mid part of February to look into funds that may be available for Team Marianas.

The lawmaker added most of these funds are from the Department of Public Works, which may have problems with idle projects due to bidding processes and other technicalities.

LADY

From Page 28

in five matches on the north end. The Lady Eagles started hot and won the first set, 25-10. Southern battled back in the

second, but GCA still found a way to get it done and took it, 25-22, for the victory. Then GCA slammed the door on Southern and won the last set, 15-7.

Volleyball action continues at the MHS Gym next Tuesday at 4:30pm

when MHS 1 welcomes Kagman High School (2-3) on the north court, while Southern squares off against SIS on the south end. Then at 5:30pm SIS hosts KHS on the north court and GCA challenges MHS 2 on the south end.

NMA

From Page 28

(for athletes

Celtics open West Coast trip with win over Blazers

Page 26

28 SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2011

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lawmaker called on his colleagues to re-appropriate money for idle projects to Team Marianas which needs financial assistance for the 14th Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia.

“Since last year, I continued to emphasize to the members to provide updates of their respective priority within their precinct so much so as to consolidate ‘idle projects’ and move the money as a Saipan matter versus ‘pet projects’,” Rep. Ramon Tebuteb said.



Team Marianas, seen here during the parade of teams in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last year, needs financial aid for the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia this year.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The lawmaker, who chairs the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said there are funds for various projects in different precincts, but they are not being used due to technicalities and other problems.

“My point is, if you have funds, but can’t use it and they are just sitting there, you might as well move it to something important and urgent, like Team Marianas’ request for financial assistance for the Pacific Games,” Tebuteb said.

The Pacific Games will take place in New Caledonia from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10 this year and since Team Marianas has yet to get help from the government, each delegate to the quadrennial event are required to shoulder \$1,800 of the total cost of the trip (\$2,200). A payment scheme was set to help each delegate complete its obligation with each person required to pay \$360 every month from December to April.

Last year, less than a month before CNMI athletes competed

See **TEBUTEB** on Page 27

NMA officials reelected



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Rep. Ramon Tebuteb earned a second term as president of Northern Marianas Athletics, following the association’s general election last Saturday at the conference room of Tasi Tours in Garapan.

Also reelected were vice president
See **NMA** on Page 27

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, right, and Robin Sapong, seen here during the 2009 NMA Awards Night, were elected president and secretary general of Northern Marianas Athletics last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers to hold Cupid Fun Run in February

Rollers Basketball Club will be organizing a fun run next month to help raise funds for their participation in the 2012 Coca-Cola National Invitational Youth Basketball Tournament.

Dubbed the Cupid Fun Run, RBC head coach Joe Diaz said the event will be held sometime in mid-February to help raise money for their much-anticipated trip

to Anaheim, California where they will compete in the youth basketball tournament.

RBC was invited to participate in the U.S. mainland event by the Southern California A.C.E.S. Basketball Academy.

The Cupid Fun Run will start at the Civic Center Basketball Court and continue north along the Beach Road pathway

See **ROLLERS** on Page 27

Rollers Basketball Club will organize the first-ever held Cupid Fun Run next month to help raise funds for their participation in the 2012 Coca-Cola National Invitational Youth Basketball Tournament in California.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Grace Christian Academy's A.J. Batallones returns a serve against Saipan Southern High School during their MISO Girls Varsity Volleyball League match Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Lady Geckos, Lady Eagles triumph

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Saipan International School and Grace Christian Academy both pulled off sweeps in the second half of last Thursday’s 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Varsity Vol-

leyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The front-running Lady Geckos are still flawless in five matches, while GCA improved to third place in the standings with a 3-2 win-loss card. MHS 1 is currently ranked second with a 4-1 record.

On the south court, SIS ran over MHS 2 in the first set, 25-7. They would not look back and

pummeled the Lady Dolphins again in the second match, 25-11, for the victory. Then SIS poured salt in the wound with another dominating performance in the final game. The Lady Geckos took it, 15-4, and sent MHS 2 back to the drawing board; MHS 2 is still winless after six games.

GCA handed Saipan Southern High School its fourth loss

See **LADY** on Page 27